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**THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**THE JOHN WATTS DEPEYSTER
PUBLICATION FUND**

LII

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COLLECTIONS

OF

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR

1919

THE JOHN WATTS DEPEYSTER
PUBLICATION FUND SERIES

NEW YORK:
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MDCCCCXX

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The two volumes now issued form the Collections of The New York Historical Society for the years 1919 and 1920, being volumes 52 and 53 of The John Watts de Peyster Publication Fund. They contain the continuation of the Cadwallader Colden Papers, being Volume III 1743-1747, and Volume IV 1748-1754 each volume having an analytical index.

The Colden Papers which cover the period 1714-1775 came into the possession of the Society by gift on October 5, 1852, from the late Ogden Hoffman, grandson of Cadwallader Colden.

January 23, 1922.

THE LETTERS AND PAPERS
OF
CADWALLADER COLDEN

VOLUME III

1743—1747

From John Rutherford

ALBANY Jan: 10th 1743

Sir

I have by your Son the pleasure of yours & am glad to hear by him that Mrs. Colden & all your Family are well. I found your Conversation soe agreeable that I assure you the Correspondence you propose gives me the utmost Satisfaction as I shall undoubtedly reap both pleasure & profit from it, soe I desire you'l write me freely your thoughts on any subject you happen to be employed on at the time & I shall endeavour to recall what I have read & thought upon the same, proposing to you any difficultys I may have upon other subjects. I have been thinking of writing to you ever since I left you but find no opportunitys but by York with the Post who comes here only once a Month & I fancy you have but few opportunitys of getting letters from York at this season soe pray let me know if there's any where on the road The Post could leave letters for you. I find my retirement here perfectly agreeable & for this reason, that 'tis compleat, divideing my time equally for Mathematicks, Philosophy, Politicks, &c without being interrupted in any Shape by Family cares of publick affairs as hitherto I have allways been, which has made me often wish for such a year intirely to myself. I find by most of my letters from London & Scotland that Factions & Partys are soe subdivided & exasperated against one another that there must surely be strange work in carrying on our Publick affairs this Sessions at London & I think myself very happy in being out of the Bustle, tho I shall long for our ships in the spring to See how matters have gone there & the more as The affairs of The Empire & of Italy were by our last accounts in the most uncertain situation tis possible to Conceive, As the Em-

perors fate must depend on the success of the Battel twixt His Forces & Marshall Maillebois on the one hand & The Duke of Tuscany & Austrians on the other who had left the siege of Prague in order to meet the French before they should reach Bohemia. Don Philip with French auxialiarys had penetrated into the heart of Savoy & was ready to pass the Mountains & The King of Sardinia obliged to leave the pursuit of Duke Montemar's army in order to defend his own Dominions. One can't help regretting however That while soe Great affairs & changes are carrying on that we tho at a greater expence in Military preparations than any Power in Europe should be doeing nothing at all for ourselves & very litle either in favour of our friends or in prejudice of our Enemies. I find they have no later acc^{ts} at Boston than we have here, As Governour Shirley writes me nothing but what we had at the Same time from York. The French in Canada are oppressed with a scarsity amounting allmost to a Famine & have a good deal of difficulty in supplying their Out forts with provisions. I want much in case of a New treaty that they give us up Crown point which they've built upon Ground in this Province formerly patented & the Patent reduced as extravagant by the Assembly, I'm surprised after that how Governor Coseby came to allow them to fortify there, from whence in a Weeks time they can plunder Boston or Albany, without soe much as protesting against it or takeing measures to prevent it. I have wrote Governour Clarke that I think we ought at least to make a formall demand of it from The French here & transmit it home after which The Ministry can't pretend ignorance of it, nor The French Prescription & uninterrupted possession. Governour Clarke in his two last letters to me seems prodigiously anxious about Oswego & indeed if The French Should attack it, I don't see any possibility of Saveing it, Tho we've done what's possible at present by sending two Indians to remain there till the Traders goe up in the Spring & I have ordered Capt Clark immediately on being attacked to send one of them

to the Senekas & the other by The High Germans & Mahocks here, The German & Mahock Militia haveing orders to march directly on receiveing the Message; but after all I can't think were in any danger of being attacked this winter. I delay comeing to any fixt resolution about Land schemes till we see in the Spring what turn things are like to take when I hope I shall have the pleasure of meeting you at York. I want much to know a litle of The Situation of The Province as to their Bills; The yearly Value & amount of the Quitrents of The Customs &c. If you have any Notes of these things by you I beg you'll oblige me with them, if not, I reckon our Country Man Mr. Kennedy can & will upon your writeing to him Satisfy our Curiosity in them. Pray remember my respects to Mrs. Colden & all your Good Family & Believe me

Dear Sir

Your most obed^t humble Servant

JOHN RUTHERFURD

From John Bartram

January y^e 16th 1742/3

Dear Friend Dr Colden

If I had not had some Acquaintance with thy person & disposition I should be apt to think thee Could hardly believe y^e pleasure I received in reading thy agreeable letter of december y^e 22^d which I received yesterday. it put mee in mind of what our friend Collinson wrote to mee last fall desireing me to Call & see thee for I should find thee a man after my own heart,—I had before sent three letters to thee without receiving any answer which almost discouraged me from writing to thee, yet resolved to write once more. I am now prety well recovered from my Sickness since which I have been twice at egg harbour once I gave thee An account of I think in my letter sent with y^e wallnuts which I am glad to hear is under thy Sons Care but I had rather thay had been sent

directly up to thee as soon as thay arived at York. I had taken Care to keep them in A moderate moist vegetative Condition until y^e day that y^e sloop Sailed with them but if thay dry or mould in y^e box I doubt y^e vigitive life will be distroyed before thay are planted:—which I would have performed after this manner. After A spot of ground is diged or plowed then how or plow A furrow two inches deep & two foot between one furrow & another then drop y^e nuts therein about six inches Asunder & cover them even with y^e earth; next summer if thay grow well thay will be six eight or ten inches high & fit to transplant y^e spring following (where thee would have them to remain) for thay shoot down A long tap root & are dificult to remove so as to live if thay grow several years befor their removal; if thee plants them for standards for timber or bearing nuts then sixty foot will be near enough but if for hedges thay should be planted about three foot asunder & when thay are grown as thick as ones arm thay may be plashed in y^e begining of March or Just before y^e sap interposeth between y^e bark & wood, Pray hath your river been frosen so hard this winter so as to hinder boats from passing Along from your parts to York our rivers hath been open all along & we have had warm weather for y^e season, & I have now in my Garden y^e Meserion, Black helebore, grounsel hen bit, Esula & Veronica in flower & many others is budding; But wee had A very sharp time of frost & snow y^e beginning of November y^e first day of which it fell with us A foot deep but A bout half way betwixt us & y^e Sea it was near two feet deep, from which place it gradually diminnished to y^e shore where there was little or none; I write of my own knowledge for Above A week after it fell I stood near y^e head of Egg harbour river up to y^e knees in snow gathering pine Cones of A perticular sort to send to Europ; & it rained fast from morning till night in which I was exposed all day at which time at my house it snowed, but from y^e midle of november we have as Afores^d fine weather but rain once or twice A week.

I am obliged to thee for Recommending me to Captain Rutherford I should Gladly embrace such an oportunity if I have health and Can leave my family so long especially if I have orders from London next spring to Continue my Perigrinations Our friend Peter informs me that he is looking out for A new Subscriber in Lord Petres room, it would be A great pleasure to me to accompany A Gentleman of such learning & qualification & I suppose of A very Curious tast too that in his Circumstance would have undertaken A Journey to Oswago or resolve to venture down Susquehana as far as Conestoge amongst y^e Indians pray what perticular Motives induceth y^e Captain to undertake such desolate difficulties is it for Animal mineral vigetable or Georgraphical discoveries thus to hasard his life & health, what attendance doth he intend to take with him what will he do for an interpreter amongst y^e Indians or provisions between y^e Christian settlements of your Government & ours,—these things ought to be considered where to meet & what course to take in order for our Journey & Communicate our resolutions to each other before wee fully conclude when to set out that we may not disapoint one another. I am obliged to thee for thy information of y^e New Edition of Lineus Characters Plantarum I design to send for it by y^e first oportunity,—I have now under my Care A fine stone as Clear as Cristal but of A delicate purple in dimention two inches long one & half broad & one thick drawn to A Point wit six iregular angles y^e basis seems to have been joyned to A whiteish spary flint A boy found it in A cart rout about 20 miles from my house this may give A hint that our province is not destitute of gems for our gould smiths takes it to be a fine Amethyst it indures y^e fire; No doubt but your mountainous part of y^e Country abounds with vairietys, if thay could be found might aford pleasure if not Profit, y^e 18th yesterday we had afternoon A storm of snow it cleared up last night with A.N.W. which Continueth exceeding Cold as commonly I have known it,—Now A little to manifest my regard I have for thy family, how

doth thy dear spouse fare as to health, Part of y^e bounty she was pleased to bestow upon me I enjoyed on y^e top of y^e Catts kill mountain & part I brought home for my wife to taste how delicately you fared in y^e north Countrey; How doth thy Son that liveth with the & thy other son & his wife that is settled by y^e rivers bank how doth thy Pretty daughters at home I shall be glad to hear of your welfare: Pray write as often to me as conveniency will permit: A brisk lively & free Corispondence is very agreeable to thy sincear friend

JOHN BARTRAM.

[Indorsed]

For

Dr. CADWALLADER COLDEN
at Coldengham
These

From John Rutherford

ALBANY March 2^d 174 2/3

Sir

About a fortnight agoe I had the favour of yours by Mr. Dunlop & as the river is now allmost quite open I expect to have an opportunity of sending you this in a day or two assuring you I was much intertaind with your scheme of applying Fluxions to Physics, for tho I doubt of your being, by means of them, able to make any progress in things of that nature; yet I find it helps the imagination prodigiously, which is of great use in things where we are apt soe soon to lose ourselves. Algebra being the Analysis of Finites is a sure guide on all occasions but Fluxions or Analysis of Infinites I'm afraid will lead us to no truths but in Geometry being only a Method of finding an infinitely small quantity which taken an infinite number of times becomes equal to a finite quantity the use of which is, that these infinites haveing relations to one another, that the finite quantities of which they are parts have not, soe by working upon them, problems are resolved and Curves squared,

which could not, or with difficulty be done without them, but when we talk of Physicks what we call infinite is then, indefinite, haveing no other Idea of it than addition or multiplication of numbers which is properly none, likewise the uncertainty of all reasoning in Physicks in which our knowledge has hitherto been all obtained by observation, chance & experiments, not by reasoning, on the contrary our knowledge in Geometry we owe to reason alone. Your manner of reasoning is clear & distinct & I beg you'l goe on, for I long to see you apply this method to other parts of Natural philosophy as well as light, I can't help here taking notice of the different thoughts and opinions of our greatest Philosophers about Light & Vision, it haveing allwayes been disputed & as much now as ever, what light consist in. The Antients wanting the advantage of later experiments I shan't mention their notions. Descartes makes Light as it exists in the Luminous body, only such a motion in its parts as to act upon the nerves in the eye by the vibrations of his *Materia subtilis* which you know he substitutes in place of the antient æther & with which he fills all space, soe Malebranche too explains Vision as he does Sound, & as sounds are communicate by the vibrations of the sonorous body acting upon the air, raiseing a sort of vibration or rather undulation therein felt by the impulses thereby made in the ear; So Light by the rapid motion of the parts of the Luminous body & their vibrations & quick pulses communicate to the subtile matter twixt the body & eye & felt by impulses on the nerves there. Sir Isaac Newton allows of a Subtile Spirit or *Etherial Medium* but in a different manner from Descartes, & makes no use of it in his doctrine of Light, Light being according to him real particles emitted with, as you call it, infinite force or motion, in infinite quantities &c from the Luminous body itself. Since him again The Great Boerhave has given us a different doctrine of Light in his famous chymical Lectures & experiments upon fire, where he seems with some of our most antient Philosophers to make Fire a sort of *Anima*

Mundi, For he asserts its presence every where; attributing Motion, Action & all changes in the Universe to its effects. Fire propagate confusedly or quaquaversum is heat, Fire propagate in strait & parrallel lines is light. That fire is every where present & can be rendered visible by attrition in all places in the coldest as well as warmest, That there is no such thing as absolute want of fire in nature is plain by observeing the different degrees of heat best measured by its effects on air in a Thermometer which we see is eternally expanding & contracting without one moments rest, as is indeed all other bodys in nature tho not soe visibly as being according to their density, tho plain by the experiment of heating rods of Metal, Glass, Stone &c. all which grows longer & dilates by heat & in proportion contracts again as they cool. The greatest degree of heat as marked on the Thermometers that Animals can live in is when the spirit of Wine is dilated to 94 degress that being the greatest heat of blood the moment it passes that every liveing thing dies, when tis reduced to 32 degrees which is the freezing point for water & we may call cold, yet by a smaller & smaller Motion of fire viz: greater & greater cold tis brought down thro all the different degrees to one which is the greatest cold hitherto known in Nature haveing been brought there only 1709 in Iceland. Now tho Nature produces no greater rest of fire or cold than to 1-degree yet by art & Chiminal preparations to no less than fourty degrees lower can the Spirit of wine be reduced & partly frozen with many other things not freezeable by nature. Haveing thus asserted fire to be every where present throughout the Universe, he allows of a power in the Sun either by his precipitate motion round his axis, or by some such power as the repulsion we observe in many natural bodys opposite to attraction as a speculum to repel, direct, or reflect that vague fire existing everywhere in right parallel lines, giveing now the Idea of light, tho befor by moveing confusedly & indeterminately it gave only the Idea of heat more or less according to the degree of motion in it. Gravesend

The great Explainer, Teacher & Defender of Sir Isaac Newton's Philosophy, agrees however with Boerhave in his doctrine of Light. You will observe as to Colours, reflexions, refractions &c. tis the same which of these doctrines we chuse, as we can allow the same propertys magnitudes &c. to the particles of fire, as to the particles Sir Isaac supposes thrown & emitted out of ignited bodies.

I suppose you have a Copy of The propositions you have been soe good as to send me soe I keep them to compare at more leisure with what you shall send me further upon that subject. This Quarrel which happened 'twixt our Indians & Virginia is a most unlucky affair, The six nations are now met together at Onondago & we have sent up our Interpreter along with The Mahocks to keep them from comeing to any resolution till we hear from the Governour which we ha'n't as yet, what puzzles us most is a strong report of The Onondago's haveing sent to Canada to engage the Mahocks there to join them & to beg a supply of Ammunition from The Canada Governour, we have besides a letter from some people we keep as Smiths in the Seneka's Country, that A Seneka Sachem is sent to desire the Ottawa's & some other Nations to stay at home this Summer, who are the people you know that use to trade at Oswego & they have ordered all their young folks home from hunting. Should The French make a proper use of this opportunity to engage intirely The Seneka's & Onondago's among whom they have great Interest allready, There is an end at once of our possession of Oswego, of the Furr & Skin trade & of the friendship of all the Indians, for as The rest of the nations are very inconsiderable in comparason of these two soe their resolutions must be followed by all the rest. I really think by all our last newspapers from England, which Mr Franks has been soe good as to send me up, There never appeared a more favourable opportunity of reduceing the power of The House of Bourbon. The British, Hanoverian & Hessian troops ready to attack Lorrain, The Kings of Poland &

Prussia's troops ready to join us The Czarina and Sweden now in peace & ready to support The Queen of Hungary allready in a manner victorious in Germany. The people in power in Holland I see won't part with it, but I don't doubt but they'l soon be forced, the whole body of the people as all their troops being in the British & Orange Interest. It would be hard however upon us here should The French have the pleasure of affronting & plundering us from Crownpoint at the same time they are overpowered every where in Europe. My best respects to Mrs. Colden & all your good Family & believe me with great esteem Dear Sir

Your most obed^t & most humble servant

JOHN RUTHERFURD

From Peter Collinson

LOND March 2^d: 174 2/3

My Dear Friend

Doc Colden

You have loaded mee with many Favours how I shall make ample Returns I know not but if you will allow mee Time & have patience, I may in some measure testifie my Gratitude, If I may judge of y^r Disposition I thswade myself you'l prove a merciful Creditor and then by Little & Little I may Discharge my Obligations

Butt att this Season is our greatest hurry of Business that I am afraid I shall be only able to acknowledge the Favour of yrs of May 5th April 9th and y^e 13th with your printing and Botanic Scheme's Inclosed

You will expect I should give you some account of y^r curious manuscript I cannot do it to my Likeing—Our people are so wretched Mercenary they are unworthy of it—It is now in the hands of I think an honest ingenious printer, (if I am not mistaken) In my next you will hear more from Mee, I am thswaded it will meet with

approbation from the publick, but the way to introduce it, is through such wretched narrow spirited Creatures who are wholly govern'd by Interest that it is really discouraging for an ingenious Man to sett pen to paper if the Common good did not counterballance all other considerations

I shall att my leisure consider your Botanic Essays as to your printing Scheme a printer that is esteem'd a knowing Man and of great business gives this answer to it for it is out of my province—He says your Scheme has been tryed long ago by good hands but was found to be expence and inconvenient in very many respects & at no Rate will do for anything else but Bibles, prayer Books &c and even in them it is very difficult, for alterations are not safely made, tho' the author of the scheme thinks otherwise—

and as to authors it would be a discouragement to them for this method would att least cost them as much as printing a thousand Copies in the common Way, for the composeing is the Cheif part of the expence the press work only coming to a trifle

It would be Easie to convince any Person of the impracticability of the thing and the vast expence that would attend it by a few Minutes Conversation

Now my Dear Friend I confide in your Humane and candid disposition to excuse Mee from adding further but that I am your obliged & affectionate Fr^d

P COLLINSON

I have a Letter from J. Bartram who is full of gratitude for the kind reception att Coldenghem Your affabile & Generous Treatment He will never forgett and I indeed have a due sence of the Favours shown him being partly on my recommendation

[Indorsed]

To
Doc^r CADWALLADER COLDEN
Coldenham
New York.

Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson

[Unaddressed and Undated Copy.]

[1743]

Dear S^r

I have your kind letter of the 2^d of March & think my self exceedingly obliged to you that you take time to write to me in the midst of so much business especially after I had been so imprudent as I have too much reason to fear to overload you with too much writing. As I am grown old & begin to be infirm I am desirous to make the most of a correspondence such as I have long wished for & I am in hopes that my intentions in writing of being in some measure usefull will with your temper excuse much how far soever I come short in the execution.

As to the Indian History I can truly say that if it had not been to grant your desires I had never more put Pen to paper on that subject & if [it has] been acceptable by way of amusement or any how to you I have the reward proposed to my self in writing it. But as you thought that it might likewise be acceptable to the Publick & of some use I submitted the Publication to your Judgment & as in such case a profit may reasonably be expected from the Publication I own'd to you that the Circumstances of my Family were such as not to allow me to despise any reasonable share in that profit. If any thing of this kind happen it will be an extraordinary Profit which I did not propose to my self in the adventure & for which I shall think my self soley obliged to you & be it what it will I am confident it will be more than I could have obtain'd by my own Industry had I been upon the spot myself.

It seems my misfortune to trouble you with Discoveries which I thought my own have happen'd to have been tried by others before This is owing to my knowing so little of what passes in the World. I must own however that a few years since I read in one of the London News papers that a New Method of Printing was discover'd which it was thought would be of use to the

advancement of Learning & a particular Benefit to Authors but of the Manner not the least hint was given This led me to think what possibly this Method of Printing might be on which occasion the Scheme which I sent you occur'd to my Fancy And as my own appear'd to me feasible & I heard nothing further of that mention'd in the News paper I concluded they might be different & mine of use tho the other should have fail'd.

Mr Grahams Arguments fully convinced me that the improvements I proposed for a Quadrant can not answer my expectations but I cannot say I am as much convinced that the method of printing can not succeed from the Objection the Printer has made to it. For the charge of composing & of the paper being the chief charge in printing when one composing may serve for an age or longer & for 100 Editions it seems to me a strong argument in favour of the New Method rather than an Objection to it. But perhaps the prejudice one has in favour of his own conceits & a Jealousy that Printers may oppose what (torn) to their own Interest may make me a less proper Judge. My situation in this Country puts it out of my Power to make any experiment of that Method of printing otherwise could I have procured as many types of the fashion & Mettel which I propose as might be sufficient to compose one page I should have put the matter out of Dispute before I had sent my thoughts of it so far as England. But as the First Author is in England & has all the opportunities he can desire to recommend it it is needless for me to think further of it. Only if you be acquainted with him you may inform him that in case the charge of lead plates be thought too great that I think the impression from Types may be made on thin boards made of Lime tree or Poplar both which are of a smooth grain very soft while green & hard when dry & if any other thoughts I have had on the subject I shall be well pleas'd that he make what use of them he thinks proper can contribute to forward his designs.

You told me that M^r Graham was pleas'd to express

some satisfaction in the first Edition of the Indian History I hope any Esteem he had of it will not be lessen'd by the 2^d Edition & therefore I must entreat you to offer him one Copy as the only acknowledgement I have at this time in my power for the favour he did me I shall think it a great Honour for me to have my name among the Authors of which so valued a Gentleman has any Esteem.

S^r what I formerly troubled you with was with design to furnish you with something of Amusement from this Country or in hopes that it might prove of more general use without any view to my private interest Now I shall presume to give you the trouble of a request in which I can use no other excuse but that it may prove of use to my self It is that you would please to send me a few ounces of good Sound Luserne seed for Experiment. From what I have read of that plant I intertain hopes that I have a proper soil for it & we have reason to think that our summers are more natural than those of England but there is much reason to doubt our Winters may be too cold as it seems to promise a great deal of Profit where it succeeds I am very desirous to make some experiment of it & I know not how to obtain any small quantity otherwise than by your favour. It would be most convenient for me to have it by the Fall ships in order to sow next spring for the Spring ships arive too late for that season.

S^r If I could find it any way in my power to acknowledge the favours you have don me by any kind of service in this Country it would in some measure take off the uneasiness I am under from the trouble I have given you & therefor I hope you will imploy me without reserve in every thing wherein I can be of use to you or contribute to your amusement.

Cadwallader Colden to Capt. John Rutherford

[Unaddressed and Undated Copy]

S^r

The uneasiness the Boatman was under with a fair wind (as I told you I expected I should) obliged to leave the Town before your return & deprived me of having the parting embrace All I can now say is that if in any manner I can serve you in your absence either by doing any thing for you in this Country or informing you from hence of any occurrences that you may desire to know I will take your imploying me as a particular mark of your Friendship for which purpose I beg you will write to me as often as you have any opportunity & instruct me in what you desire & how to direct to you. Letters to me will come the more safely by being put under cover directed to M^r Richard Nicholls Post Master in New York. Pray make my complements to your Brother I wish both of you an agreeable quick Voyage a Happy Sight of your Family & a Speedy return to us.

I have lately fallen into a literary correspondence with a Gentleman who is curious in several branches of the natural History of America & I am told has an exceeding curious collection of that sort as well as the most compleat Garden of American Plants that is in Great Britain. It is the more extraordinary by his being a Merchant (a Mercer) who seldom apply themselves to any study that no way tends to advance their Cash. He seems to me to be a man of Generous principles & of universal Benevolence & as I expect for these reason that you will be very acceptable to each other I write the inclosed to give you an opportunity of seeing one another as he has a general correspondence over America & a considerable acquaintance with the Curious part of the Nobility & Gentry perhaps he may on some occasion be of use to you & therefore if you incline to see him you may deliver it otherwise burn it. M^r Alex^r & Bryant can tell you where he lives for I know not in what part of the town.

It is probable you have some acquaintance with M^r Alderman Perry if you happen to meet with him pray offer my humble Service to him We were pretty intimate in some part of our youthfull days. My wife is exceedingly pleas'd with the hopes of seeing your Lady in this Country She desires you to tell her that she is confident she will neither dislike the Climate of this Country nor the Conversation of the Ladies. We both beg you'll make our humble Service acceptable to her & to your Father S^r John whom I remember very well tho' I am confident he can remember very little of me I beg one line from you before you go that I may know what I am to do for you as to the land you mentioned & that I may have the pleasure of kissing your hand at parting. I give you the trouble of a letter to my Brother which please to send to the Post office at your arival in London.

Pray don't forget me to M^r Ker How different are the Fates of mankind that I who was alwase a Grave fellow should live & dye among the Indians & the lively rake should gain the Virtuosa & live & dye a grave old man in his own Country I wish you could obtain some of his Memoirs which it seem he gives you hopes of My Service likewise to M^r Cleland I can remember his thoughts of young gerls were when he was young himself I should be glad to know from himself what they were at 60 when he married a gerl of sixteen. Pray my Duty to the Marquiss of Lothian if you see him I must not trouble you with every particular & [my service] in general to all them that remember me

Cadwallader Colden to [Peter Collinson]

[Unaddressed and Undated Copy.]

S^r

I write this by Captⁿ Rutherford to give you & him an opportunity of meeting because I am persuaded you will both be pleas'd with each other. He is a Gentleman who besides a liberal Education has had the Advantage

of seeing several of the Courts of Europe & of being Member of the British Parliament (so young as you see) upwards of seven years Tho he has been only about 12 months in America many things may be learn'd from one of so universal knowlege that would in vain be enquired from another that may have spent as many years as he has don months in this Country. But had he none of these advantages I am persuaded there are some things natural to you both & which can never be acquired which will make you pleased with one another I have still another reason which tho a selfish one I will confess it is that I as I hope he will return to this Country may once in my life at least see the man who has seen you since I can not hope ever to see you myself & That we may see one another by Proxy

I am

S^r

yours much obliged & most humble servt.

From John Rutherford

ALBANY Aprile 19 1743

S^r

I have now the favour of yours of the 2^d inst & I own I begin now to think fluxions more founded in Nature than Ive done hitherto, not haveing befor thought of them in any other shape than in Sqareing curves in order to compare them & discover their propertys & there they are plainly Suppositions only, we takeing the Series to be equall to what we See by the figures befor us it is not, tho the difference being incomprehensibly Small we Suppose it vanished, yet I cant, as yet intirely agree with you, in our haveing any distinct Ideas of 'em tho I want much to have you goe on to apply that method of reasoning to Quantitys really existing, perhaps some new propertys or Connections may by that means appear to reward your Labour, tho if not, The Search of truths

has Something in it soe Soothing that I dare say you'l never repent your labour or time you bestow in it. You have a little mistaken my meaning in compareing the different thoughts of Descarts Newton &c. of Light for I meant there only Sir Isaac's Hypothesis laid down in one of his Quæres at the end of His Opticks, & did not at all mean his Opticks viz: his experiments & observations on light in which his doctrine really consists in which he as you well observe lays down no Hypothesis how Light is produced but takes it as he finds it, divides it, proves it consisting of various particles capable of different degrees of refraction, requireing different causes of reflection, raising different Sensations of Colours &c. which is allowed now by all mankind to be one of the finest inventions & most delightfull & intertaining of all the advantages Experiments has gained to Modern Philosophy by which it excells the antient. I can't conceive how it should make any difference, except in words, in your Philosophy to Suppose Light consisting of Particles constantly flowing out of the Sun, or to suppose, as I own I doe, that the Particles of Fire proven, as much as any thing in Physicks can be to exist every where & of different uses propertys &c. as Sir Isaac proves them by which [they] are capable of affecting us with different Colours according [to the] difference of bodys acting differently on the different particles & haveing the appearance of Light only when reflected or rather constantly repelled by the Sun or other luminous body by Such a power as Sir Isaac has likewise proved existing in many bodys on earth acting it a distance viz: without contact on light: & when thus put in motion by Such a power in the Sun &c. are driven in Straight parrallel lines to all distances constituteing light while they keep Soe & heat alone with extreme, little light, when moveing irregularly I say, litle, because I can neither think there is any absolute Cold or Absolute darkness in the world. Fire as I observed above existing every where & more or less perceptible according to the various motions caused among its particles by the different bodys acting upon it.

And I look upon this Fluid, (Medium, Fire, tis no matter how 'tis named, Since tis plain what's meant, viz: what by the elasticity, variety, & motion of it particles is rendered Sensible to us in the different degrees of Heat, light &c. more or less according to the kind & degree of motion impressed on them.) as Sir Isaac in others of his Quæres Supposes Æther to be & even by his own account without this his imaginary emitted light Seems to be a meer nothing incapable of ever being perceived or indeed of any of those effects by which we mean light, happening to have his Opticks by me I'll give you his own words in his 23^d Quære Is not Vision performed chiefly by the vibrations of this Medium excited in the bottom of the eye &c? And in his 18 Quære after describing an experiment to support his doctrine he says, Is not heat conveyed by the vibrations of a much Subtiler Medium than Air & is not this Medium the Same with that by which light is refracted & reflected & by whose Vibrations Light communicates heat to bodys & is put into fits of easy reflexion & easy Transmission? (& after) Is not this Medium exceedingly more rare & active more elastick & Subtile than air & is it not expanded thro' all the heavens? After his 28 Quære he says expressly, But how two Æthers can be diffused through all Space one of which acts upon the other & by Consequence is reacted upon, without retarding & confounding one another's Motions is inconceivable You see then the Absurdity of his Hipothesis [of] light's being a Constantly emitted fluid & distinct from the other (torn) fills all the Universe the few Shadows of Planets Comets &c. being a point in regard of the whole & even there only a lesser degree of light, Soe that to Support this System we must Suppose three Such Mediums expanded thro Space acting upon one another Viz: Fire, Light, & Æther, which is plainly inconsistent with the simplicity of Nature & quite inconceivable according to Sir Isaac's own opinion, & I have chosen to argue from him on account of the veneration you seem to have for him soe high, as to prefer him allmost infinitely to poor Boerhave, &

I'll allow you to prefer him to Boerhave & most people as a Mathematician, But I must prefer Boerhave & many others to him in Physicks, who haveing the advantage of his experiments and knowledge have at the same time added something of their own & I must therefor from Sir Isaac's own words above apply to him your words speaking of Boerhave viz: that he was upon the right scent but had not gained a perfect & distinct Notion of the Subject on which he wrote. To humble you a little further about Sir Isaac, tho no mortal can have more respect for his demonstrateing these laws of Nature he Soe wisely & wonderfully applys to the System of the world in his Principia & for his Optical discoverys Yet remember he differs 500 years in his Cronology from the rest of Mankind in which has not yet been followed by one Author at home or abroad nor can I ever envy a Man or call him truly Great who never enjoyed any pleasure in Society, dyed a Virgin, & wrote upon the Revelations. The Carterian fluids supposeing no Voids are now laid aside I See almost every where for numerous reasons but I don't think Sir Isaac's argument of Lights not turning into the shadow alone sufficient to have destroyed their doctrine of Light, for I think they might answer thus waves of Water turns much in behind the obstacle, Air being rarer turns much less Æther infinitely rarer turns infinitely less viz Scarce at all & this on account of the immense difference of the Swiftness of the Motion in the Waves of these Three fluids as well as on the difference of their fineness elasticity &c. But as I readily give up all Fluids in that sense I shall add no more about 'em. I am firmly persuaded The Great Author of Nature at the Creation, of all possible Worlds chused the best or most perfect & allways maintains it soe, And as I reckon the Sun The heart or chief principle of Motion, Life &c., in our world I cant allow (torn) in the most infinitely small degree diminished in either bulk, Qualitys powers &c., for then the world must be better or worse at one time than another; But without goeing to any agruments of that nature which I own may

sometimes convince but can never be conclusive, I think an argument may be form'd in your own way thus, suppose each Strata of the Suns substance emitted as light as infinitely thin as you please Some thickness they must have & that taken an infinite number of times is equal to the Suns body, the difference of Infinitys won't answer it, for I can imagine the difference of the times as infinitely small as you can the Stratums & much easier: the difference of emissions being apparently soe small as to give rather the idea of A constant stream than any succession at all & consequently attempt but to put the thickness of your Stratis in figures & the Sun will be very quickly exhausted. My Brother is arrived here from Philadelphia to pass a few weeks with me & joins with me in my respects to Mrs. Colden to you & all your young Folks. We have now letters from Governour Clarke The Governour of Virginia &c., anent makeing up the Virginia Quarrel with our Indians & I don't think we shall have much difficulty in it unless a War with France Happen immediately before we've time to finish the affair, For The Dutch you know are never in a hurry, & our Indian Commissioners are composed almost wholly of them, but I shall quicken them as much as I can. I am

Sir

Yours most obedient and
most humble Servant

JOHN RUTHERFURD

From John Bartram

April ye 25th 1743

Dear friend

I received thine of December ye 22^d which I answered directly & sent by ye post according to direction: but have not received yet any answer from thee wheather thee receivd it; which I have A Considerable time expected:

But ye Opinion I have entertained of thy good nature leads me to find several excuses for this Omision (I do not neglect) as ye difficult pasage from York to thy hands. For it may be thee waited to know more of ye Captains mind Concerning his tour down Susquehana in order to send me his answer; which may be A considerable time in obtaining; or mine might miscary;

I trust so much to thy generous disposition that thee will vouchsafe me an answer to my letters; tho thay contribute no way to thy instruction; but are rather impertinent yet this insufficiency is for want of Capacity & not inclynation to oblige thee.

I have this day received several letters from London which informs me of ye great Satisfaction I gave my Correspondents in what I sent last fall so that I expect to travail A great way this summer & perhaps into your parts toward ye Mohocks Countery; therefore pray let me know how ye Captain is disposed for travelling this Spring; as soon as conveniency will permit; that I may know how to provide to accompany him; if our affairs & time will suite each other—at present I am waiting for Perticular orders by ye next ship from London which I expect soon will arive haveing not received any answer to my two last letters; I have no more to write to thee at present but to asure thee that I am thy loving & Sincear Friend

JOHN BARTRAM

[Indorsed]

For
Dr CADWALADER COLDEN
at Coldenham

These
with speed

From George Clarke

NEW YORK June: 17th 1743

Sir

You do me but Justice in supposing that I would acquaint you with any thing that might be injurious to

you, did it come to my knowledge, you judge rightly, it was a mistake committed by the Clerk and overlooked by M^r Moore, who is much concerned that it should happen, the Commission I have ordered to be sent for that it may be altered: As to the Letter the Council directed him to acquaint you with that Business, and he hopes that may in a great measure Excuse him: he showed me the Copy of his Letter to you, the Latter part whereof I think, and he is sensible of it, might have been otherways expressed, for instead of desiring you to write to him, he should have said the Board desired you to acquaint them &c.^a But as there was I am persuaded no disrespect intended. I hope you will forgive Inadvertencies: I am pleased that my thoughts correspond with yours, I asked if the Line was run by publick Authority, thinking that no other could be considered by us. I will lay your Letter before the Council: I wish you a good Journey and as little Trouble as may be in the Business you go upon being

Sir

yours most obedient

humble servant

GEO. CLARKE.

Cadwallader Colden Esq^r.

From John Bartram

June ye 26th 1743

Esteemed friend

I have received thy kind letter of May ye 13th since which Captain Rutherford hath been at my house accompanied with several Gentlemen of ye Chiefest distinction in Philadelphia he appears to be A fine accomplished Gentleman—

I am much surprised that thy neighbour should tell thee that he left A letter at my house in March which Could not be else I should have heard of it or of him which I have not

I have lately received orders from London to travail to gather ye seed of ye balm of Gilead cones & other species of ever greens; ye duke of Norfolk hath subscribed 20 Guineas ye duke of Richmond & another Gentleman fifteen more besides our Proprietor hath sent me orders to procure some Curiosities for him—I am now providing for a Journey up Susquehana with our interpreter in order to introduce A Peacable understanding between ye Virginians & ye five nations we suppose ye meeting will be in ye Onondagues Countrey: I suppose not far from your fort Oswego we are to set out in A week or two: I do not yet know whether we shall ride up Susquehana any farther than ye great branch which runs westward (toward Alegeeny) where one of thair chiefs lives: whome we are to take with us to ye treaty & according to his advice we are to proceed either on horseback or by water up ye river as far as Navigable: thence by land to ye Onondagues river: this Journey I hope if wee have good success may afford us A find opertunity of many Curious observations; & if thee pleas to be so kind as to write to ye Captain of your fort or ye minister in ye Mohocks Countrey in my favour; it may do me a Kindness in A strange Land; if I should return home that way; & thorow Albany which I dont yet know; however thee may be assured of ye real friendship of they Sincear friend

JOHN BARTRAM

I sent A letter in may by one of my acquaintance who promised to leave it at thy house or deliver it to thee

[Indorsed]

For
 Doctor CADWALLADER COLDEN
 at Coldenham
 Recommended to the Care of Mr Nichols
 thy y^r Serv^t
 Free L EVANS

Cadwallader Colden to John Bartram

[Copy]

S^r

I was in Connecticut in the Execution of a Comissⁿ on an affair of Consequence to that Colony when I receiv'd yours of the 26th of June & stay'd there till towards the end of August by which I was deprived of the pleasure of writing as you desired of me So far as I can learn you return'd without being in the Mohawks Country if you had I believe Mr Barclay the Minister there would have shown all the Civility in his Power on what I formerly wrote to him when you designed for that part of the Country I hope you have returned with ample Satisfaction to your own Curiosity by a Discovery of many New things in Natural History & that you will likewise take the Pleasure of Communicating your Discoveries to the Inquisitive part of the World.

These Avocations by Publick Business have entirely taken my thoughts from any subject in your Way I have been taken off from viewing the agreeable Phenomina of the beautiful varieties in Nature to the Disagreeable phenomina of mens perverse Actions But as this can give you no pleasure no more of it However that this summer may not be entirely lost to our Correspondence I shall acquaint you with something which I though worth taking note of. As we past through the Country we were with much Civility entertain'd a few hours at their Governor'd house (M^r Laws) & had the Pleasure to see himself & his Children cloathed in a good handsom Silk of their own making & he told me that this year there would be above a hundred yards made in that litle Toun (Milford) They make silk Handkerchefs & stockens as well as Stuffs He takes a great deal of pains in being inform'd himself in the Mystery of the Silk Manufacture & in instructing his Neighbours If I be not mistaken this litle Town has done more without any publick encouragment than all the Colony of

Georgia with the incouragement of I dont know how many thousand pounds of the Publick Money & by this we may see how in any shape publick Spirit is more useful than money

I believe you may have often heard a complaint of the Expenciveness of Lawsuits that Justice must in a manner be bought at a Dear rate They have no reason for complaint of this sort in Connecticut for I believe no where are lawyers fees & other Court charges lower than there but such is the misfortune of all human affairs that the avoiding of one evil generally occasions twice as many. As in no place a law suit can be carried on so cheap so in no other place do they abound in them so much, they assured me that in the County Court of the place where we were, above 600 Actions were then depending. This occasions a litigious humour among the People a perpetual caballing & attendance on their Courts An Avocation of their Minds from their Business & the Interest of their Families & a great Defect in their Industry. Besides tho' every man allmost in that Colony thinks himself a Lawyer yet perhaps hardly one man in it thoroughly Understand the Principle of the Law We may learn from this that nothing more prevents the advancement of any Art or Science than that of making it cheap & mean. We might observe the same as to their Religeous Notions no where more talk of Religeon or a greater pretence to skill in Theology to Sanctity among Indeividuals & no where are the Principles of Religeon less understood.

In digging a well about a mile from my house at about 9 foot depth we came to Water In some places between the points of a Slaty rock the Water came out as black as ink & upon examining the joint we found in it a black fluid of the consistencie of a Syrup & in the same joint we found several small irregularly shaped clear white flinty stones or Spar It had nothing remarkable either as to smell or taste. Please to let me know if you have at any time met with such & your thoughts of what this black Fluid may be. The Oar or Veins of

Minerals are observ'd to grow & to have their sperm or embryo (if I be not mistaken) in a Fluid State If they grow like other Vegetives they must in time come to a State of Maturity & after that decay & at last dye & come to Corruption So that this may likewise be the Mineral in a Corrupted State. Perhaps you can give me some light into this for I have no knowledge of the nature of Minerals

As my son carries this I can have no doubt of its coming safe to your hands & gives me the pleasure of hoping that I cannot fail of having a full sheet at least from you after so long an Intermission in our Correspondence I am very affectionately

Your

From Peter Collinson

LOND Sep^r 4th 1743

My Dear Friend

Pray make no apologies about the Length of y^r Letters they are very Entertaining—If I have not time to write it is a pleasure to mee to Read—

I never See your Indian History, the Fruits of great pains & Industry) but I am sensible of the great favour Shown Mee and of the many obligations I am under for It—a very Worthy & Ingenious Man Cap^t Middleton who Went to Hudsons Bay to find out the North west passage haveing been 14 Voyages into that Bay In the Companys Service, had from time to Time collected Such Observations as gave good reason to hope it was practicable He Laid them before The Admiralty Board, and he was Sent in the year I think 1741 and Winterd there & made all the Essays practicable but returnd fully convinced there was no passage—as He was a Good Naturallist He had Collected variety of Materials well worth the knowledge of the Curious, I happend to show Him y^r History He was delighted with It & said this will do very Well

to publish with mine; & you shall Share in the proffits—I thought this a Luckky Incident Butt Some Malicious people have opposed Cap^t Middleton and rendred his Journals Suspicions att y^e admiralty Board—w^{ch} for the present has obliged the Cap^t to Lay aside his first Designe and now turns Author to Vindicate Himself—

My Dr Fr^d as you yett thersist in the opinion that your scheme for printing is very practicable as well as advantageous, but as I was no Judge of It, I engaged Mr Straham a printer to answer yours, He is Esteemd an Ingenious knowing Man So Shall referr you to his Letter here Inclosed

You can't Imagine how I was surprised to See the great progress you have made in the Linnean Systeme and with what Accuracy you had Drawn up the Two Botanic Enigmas. I profess myself no Botanist neither am I fond of Novelties—the Science of Botany is too much perplex'd already our Country Man Ray I like best as my Skill is Slender, and I have not time to make any proficiency in the New Method, you will I hope Excuse Mee if I mistake the Mark—If I say the one Seems to be a plant, that my Botanic friends as a Mark of their Respect have called by my Name, the other Seems to be a Hellebore or Helleborine of which you have variety but the theticular plant I cant say—pray Send Mee a Specimen Dry'd between two papers—that I may have the pleasure to See the Plant that you have So Dextriously Investigated—I have several in my Garden, they are Easily Sent over by takeing them up when the Flower Fades with a Lump of mould about the Roots & putt into a Box of Earth and Nail'd up Close only boreing a few holes for Air & then Sent on board A Ship—my Indefatigable Friend J. Bartram is very knowing & Successfull in these operations—my Great Delight is in Cultivateing & Nurseing these Rare plants & Seeing them Come to Maturity this does not Engage the Mind so atentively as Botanic Knowledge Especially If I am to be master of the Several Systems of Tournfort, Ray & Linnaeus—as I have a good Esteem for the Last and

personally know Him and annually Correspond with Him
 I dont know but I may Send Him y^r 2 Enigmas I know
 it will give Him vast pleasure to See the progress of his
 Science in So remote a Quarter

my Dear S^r

I Salute you with

Cordial Respects & am y^r affectionate fr^d

P. COLLINSON

I Send you under the Conveyance of my Worthy
 friend J. Alexander the History of the
 Polypus for a Winter Evenings Entertainment you
 may Depend all is Literally True most of the
 Experiments have been Try'd here & Succeed Exactly.

[Indorsed]

To

Doc^r COLDEN

Coldengham

From James Colden

D: B;

I had yours in which you gave me Some hopes of Seeing
 Captain Rutherford in this country. this caused me
 ride to White banks an Old Acquaintance of mine who
 married Cap^t Rutherford's Sister from whom I hoped to
 have got Some account of him but I was most unlucky
 for M^{rs} Rutherford had been there Some days and he and
 his Lady were gone with her to Edgerton the day before
 I came his mother told me they were once in hopes he
 was come the Length of London. but that they were
 then affrayd he would not come off till September but
 I am purswaded M^r Rutherford likes your country and
 has wrot favourably of it to his Lady, for she is not only
 resolved to come over with him, but I am informed that
 it was with Some difficulty her friends dissuaded her
 from coming to him. the account you give of your
 familie gives us the greatest delight Long Long may
 you enjoy them and Still may your comfort in them
 encrease I did not write last Spring but the reason was

that I was in a very bad State of health most of last winter which increased on me the whole Spring so as I began to fear it might at last cut me down and as I know that giving you an account of the State I was then in would trouble you I rather delayed till I Saw what turn the Distemper would take I wrot in June last by one going to London who promised to put it into the coffee house him Self in which I gave you an account of the death of my Son James which with the Circumstances both I and my wife were in at the time was very heavy on me I have reason to bless God, the gravil cholicks which for some time have terribly Distressed me are very much abated and the excessive vomitting hath for Some tim quite left me So that I am at present in a tollerable State of health my wife is in very good health and pretty far gone with Child. the Children are all very well and give us no Smale comfort Cad is I hope neer free of his distemper and Seems to have a very good cappacity. If a war with france will give you any unwealcome visits from thair collonies you are like not to want them Long. for it is thought we are on the very brink of a war with france we all Joyn in desireing to be affectionatly remembered to you my Sister and your Children and offer our duty to my Aunt if she be yet alive. may God bless you and them and make you long happy in the enjoyment of them I am

D B

Your most tenderly Affectionate Brother
JAMES COLDEN

Whitsom 9th Sep^{tr}
1743

[Indorsed]
To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r at New york to be Left at the Sun Coffee house behind the Royal Exchange London to be forwarded by the first Ship for New York Boston or Phyladelphia
R^d Febr 21st 1743/4

Answer'd the 19th of June 1744 with an account of my Aunts will as to him. [Note by Cadwallader Colden]

From Joh. Fred Gronovius

Sir

The 29 of July I was favoured with your kind letter of the 28th of March 1743, which came to my hand (by the care of Doctor du' Bois) by the Reverend Mr Dorsius, who told me that in short time he was resolved to go back to pensilvania, wherefore I shal answer to your letter, as much the time will permit.

Mr Clifford, one of the richest merchants at Amsterdam hath printed his Hortus at his own expenses, and doth not sell any Coppye, but is very liberall in making a present of it. So that if you can collect Some seeds for Him, I don't doubt, he will present you with a copy of it. Sometimes it is to be met in a public Auction, where it commonly go's for about 25 gilders.

The second part of the Flora virg. is printed; of which I take the liberty to send to you a copy, besides a copy of the First part. But as you make no mention in Your letter of some other books of Linnaeus, besides his characters, I take the liberty to present you with some other books, which you will find of a great use to You viz. with a New Edition of his Fundamenta Botanica, in which you will find a great thesary of learned observations; but this book must be read over and over: and then you will easily perceive the Laws which must be observed in making the Characters particularly about the partes fructificationis, where the numerus, figura, proportio et situs always must be observed.

I am infinitely obliged to You for the plants and Characters, You are so kind to communicate to me At present I am very much taken up with the public affaires, and the short staying of the Reverend Mr. Dorseus is the cause that I can not examine You'r Characters, what I hope to do when our 20,000 men for assistance of the queen of Hungary are marching, being about these affaires not only the 7 provinces, but the towns her self divided in their opinions: however there is great hope to a generall agreement.

However in reading now en than for a moment Your Characters I am (without any flattery) surprised, how you in such a Short time could have such ideas of Linnaeus way in making up the rotas characteristicas. Linnaeus hath promised to give out one time or another His philosophia Botanica, which should only consist of an explication upon the aphorisms of his Fundamenta, so that this book should be as a Standard. A part of it is printed in this Critica Botanica, wherein certainly you shall find exceeding good remarks, where for I take the liberty to present to you my own copy of that book which I have more than 50 times read over and over.

I dont doubt, you shall find by Reading nicely the Fundamenta, the preface to the Characteres, that this Critica Botanica, You may easily make Your selv Master of Linnaeus his way. For my selv I assure you I can not give to You better Directions. But if it is that You have still some scrupuls, I shall always be ready answer them as much I can.

Dr. Linnaeus is not only content with his Botany, but he extend his industry to all part of naturall History, and has braught me over to it, particularly persuaded by the power of my family, and I my selv to, in the government of this town, and by that way Now and than depute's to the States of Holland & others colledges, I get by our men a war an immense collection of natural things, of which my chiefst deligt are in the Lapides, and Testacka, that is, the conchæ et cochleæ.

I hath tryed Juxta Linnaei Fundamenta Botanica to give names to all these things, and printed a catalogue of it the year 1740, since which time my collection increased once larger. You shall infinitely oblige me if You meet some of these things, to communicate them to me. particularly the the cochleæ and Conchæ of you'r country. I dont doubt there is in your Country a good variety of Snails (as wel at Land as in the rivers) whose Cockle Shells are different in shape and Colours.

Now Sir once more, I acknowledge my selv very much obliged to You for You' letter and Characters, assuring

that I shall always be glad to See your Letters, to which I shall always answer upon spot: direct only to Mr. Sadelhof, Merchand at Amsterdam, or to Mr. John papin, Junior, Merchand at Rotterdam, with a direction to D^r John Frederic Gronovius, Senateur de la Ville de Leyden in Holland.

I am Dear Sir, wishing You all health and prosperity
Your most obedient Servant

Leyden 6 August 1743

JOH. FRED GRONOVIOUS.

Sir:

The before mentioned Mr. Dorsius hath told me, that he was resolved in short time to go over to pensilvania, and promised me that he should cal upon me and spend a night, where upon I write these preceding lines, and made a paked of things mention there. To my great sorrow I did not heard any thing of that Gentelman. In the mean time I resolved to Fixe daily some hours, to consider Your Characters. Once for all You must know that I such one who never will flatter any one: but with Father plinnius agnoscere per quem profeceriam Indeed I must confess, I hath a great deal light in your Characters about somme plants, mentioned in the flora Virginica.

I take the Liberty to send you my remarks, which have been ready a month ago, when I hath made this packed ready, that at the approach of Dorsius I could give it immediately in his hand: but helas! the fellow did not come: so that I was a whole month disappointed: having been very sorrow that I going to bed, I sa the packed lying in my room, and the next morning coming in my room, I sa it still lying there, till it happened, that Mr. Otto a Gentleman from [blank in MS] advised me of his going to England, who promised me to give it there in good hands.

I remain Dear Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Leyden 3 Octob. 1743.

JOH. FRED GRONOVIOUS.

From Benjamin Franklin

Philad^a Nov. 4 1743

Sir

I received the Favour of yours, with the Proposal for a new Method of Printing, which I am much pleased with and since you express some Confidence in my Opinion, I shall consider it very attentively and particularly, and in a Post or two send you some Observations on every Article.—

My long Absence from home in the Summer, put my Business so much behind-hand, that I have been in a continual Hurry ever since my Return, and had no Leisure to forward the Scheme of the Society: But that Hurry being now near over, I purpose to proceed in the affair very soon, your Approbation being no small Encouragement to me.

I cannot but be fond of engaging in a Correspondence so advantageous to me as yours must be: I shall always [receive] your Favours as such, and with great Pleasure.—

I wish I could by any Means have made your Son's longer Stay here as agreeable to him, as it would have been to those who began to be acquainted, with him. I am, Sir, with much Respect.

your most hum^l Serv^t

B. FRANKLIN.

From James Alexander

NEW YORK Nov^r 27th 1743

D^r Sir

Bryant arrived on Wednesday last & I got home from Jersey on Thursday last, with some Difficulty haveing the Gout in both my feet—in a trunk from Collinsons was the inclosed Letter to you & book from Collinson, it opens

a very Extraordinary Scene of Nature—it has been observed here that upon a Lobsters Losing a whole Claw that a new one grows in the place of it, & that thats the occasion that very often the one Claw in much bigger than the other corresponding Claw in the Same Lobster, which new Growth of a whole Claw Seems Something like to that of the Polypus in the book, but whether any part will produce all the others parts de novo is what I don't know & much doubt.

I beg you would Send me a Coppy of what Collinson & Grahame wrote Concerning the quadrant & particularly the price, I thought I had taken a Coppy but cant find it, if I have; I think now by Bryant's return of Sending for Such a Quadrant, & to have it made under the care & Direction of M^r Grahame, & to have it carefully Examined by him after its made, to Discover & Certify the Errors if any be.

If you can think of any particular method of Examination & what points are most carefully to be examined and Certified, I should be glad you would favour me with it, to recommend to Collinson (to whom I am to remitt the charge of the instruments) to recommend to Graham

My best respects to M^{rs} Colden to all your family I am

Your most humble Servant

JA: ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

att

Coldingham

Cadwallader Colden to James Alexander

[Copy]

S^r

About 2 years since I receiv'd by M^r Grahams conveyance an Acct of an Instrument you make for taking of Latitudes which you say will be sufficient to determine it to a minute but as you gave no description of that

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Instrument & from the lenth of the Telescope I concluded it could not much exceed 20 Inches Radius I could not conceive how the latitude could be determin'd with sufficient certainty to a minute by an Instrument of so small a Radius. & for that reason I wish you had taken the trouble of giving a more particular account of the Contrivance of that Instrument for if by any contrivance a small Instrument can perform all that a larger can such Instrument must on many accounts be preferable to the larger. However as I believe that you will at this time receive directions for making a Quadrant I take this opportunity of desiring you to send an Exact Common compass or Circumferentor for my son who is a practical Surveyor Tho' this Instrument be as little complicated as most yet not one of a hundred which come from England are free of Errors. These errors seldom happen in the Graduation but in placeing of the sights whereby the sights are not placed exactly in the plain of the Meridian of the Compass & the upper & lower sights not exactly in the same plain which you know must in all operations by such Instruments produce sensible errors & for that reason I must desire you to take particular care as to that for this error is very difficultly corrected. As Errors of this kind may be contracted by an accidental twisting of the Arms of the compass on which the sights are placed please therefor to make these Arms of sufficient thickness not to yeld to a small force & for the same reason that the sights be not placed above $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches beyond the graduated ring of the Compass, for the longer the Arms are the more easily by an accident they may be bent. The sights must be join'd to the Arms with such exactness that after their being taken off they may be replaced with all requisite exactness without declining any way & be secured in that Scituation by a Screw These Compasses sometimes contract faults by the hole in the cap of the Needle which plays on the top of the center pin not being sufficiently smooth & by unevenness which it contracts by continued rubbing on the Pin for which reason the inside of the Cap to be well polished

& case hardned I can see no reason why an Iron cap may not do better than brass, if Iron can be made both smoother & harder without being subject to rust but as to these you can judge better than I can.

I believe it may be proper to send some kind of punch shaped to the hole of the needle Cap & a little Emery or Something perhaps more proper to polish the inside of the Cap & to remove any Scratches it may contract from the Center pin or otherwise. The graduated ring should be thin that the Center pin be no longer than for the needle to play freely upon it for the longer the center pin the greater the errors occasion'd by the Compass not being placed exactly horizontal every time an observation is made. We likewise choose to have the center pin of Steel because Brass wears blunt too soon & to have a screw on the lower end by which it is fixed in the box that it may be rais'd or lower'd to our liking & must allow to be bent so as to reduce the point exactly to the center. The needles must be made as thin & light as possible to lessen the friction on the center pin & their ends must allow of bending to reduce them precisely into the same line with the center of the needle. The Diameter of the Compass within the Ring or lenth of the Needle to be about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Cadwallader Colden to William Strahan

[Copy]

S^r

As I think my self much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken to answer a paper I formerly wrote to M^r Collinson I take the first Opportunity to acknowledge it. I am fully convinced that your reasonings are just & as they have been likewise confirmed by Experience they leave no room to doubt. But at the same time I must inform you that you have not entirely taken my view I easily & at first perceiv'd that this Method would not succeed for common books which generally bear but one

Edition & are chiefly calculated for the present times & with a view to a speedy profit while the present taste & humour lasts I had confin'd my view to particular cases & to a narrow compass to books in the Sciences and to such only which have an intrinsick value independent of the Governing humour or taste the Value of which are known to few & will allwise be esteem'd & sought after by some: Of Such sort is Euclid's Elements which has continued in the Esteem of the world above 2000 years such likewise are S^r Isaac Newton's optics & his Principia, which will for all ages be called for by the few that understand them. Such likewise are Trigonometrical Tables &c which never can be out of Fashion or out of use & which may be affixed to & are convenient for many different books & yet all these books & others of the kind have but a slow Sale The composing of them for the press must likewise be more difficult & expensive because the Composer cannot be assisted by the sense & a mistake on one letter or figure frequently disturbs [the whole] sense. Some of these have been often cut on copper plates (with profit I suppose to the owners) & yet certainly they might with much less expence by impressed on printing metal by types en creuse in the Method I propose than by engraving & by the rolling press. I accidentally last summer fell into Comp^y with a Printer (the most ingenious in his way without question of any in America upon my mentioning my thoughts which I wrote to M^r Collinson) he told me of the Method which had been used in Holland which you likewise mention but he thought the method by types en creuse to be an improvement of that Method & as he is a man very lucky in improving every hint he has done something on this foundation & which I have seen which has puzzled all the printers in this country to conceive by what method it is done As printing is this mans trade & he makes a Benefite of it I do not think my self at liberty to communicate it without his consent tho' as to my own part I have no interest in keeping the secret nor had I or have I any other view in what I formerly wrote than to communicate a thought which I fancied might be of use

to others What I have wrote perhaps may occasion some reflections to you that may not prove of loss to you in your way. If I can make you any return to your civility by any Service in this Country you will oblige me by giving me an opportunity to do it I am & shall be glad of any occasion worth your while to continue a correspondence I am If you think proper to inform me of the common charge of Printing & the price of common printing paper perhaps It may give me an Opportunity some time or other of serving you.

[Indorsed]

Answer to Mr STRAHAN
Nov^r 1743.

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD NOV. 21 1743

S^r

This waits upon you by Mr Watkins concerning whom I need say nothing farther than I said to you when I had the hon^r of your Conversation—As he is a Serious honest Man I hope he may be acceptable among the people of your Country, being, I am sure, heartily disposed to do all the Good he can, & I believe well qualified to answer all the Ends necessary, in Such a Situation as that is—By him, according to my promise I sent you Bp. Berkeleys pieces—The Theory of Vision indeed I could not recover where I had lent it Soon enough to Send it you. But Mr Watkins having the Minute philosopher of his own, at the End of which there is the last Edition of it, he will supply you with them both himself, the principles & Dialogues I Send you.—The Bp. always wished his pieces to be read in the Order in which he published them, which is—1st The Theory of Vision—2 the principles of Human Knowledge.—3. The Dialogues, which are the same thing in another shape—4. The Minute Philosopher.—To which I have added the pieces he has Since published, viz 5—His Defence of his Theory—6. The Analyst.—7—His

Defense of it.—This is the order in which they were wrote & Should be read but, I believe before any thing else it would be best to read the Introduction to the principles of Human Knowledge, the d'sign of which is to banish Scholasticism & abstract Ideas which have been the Bane of all Science of every kind.—I doubt not but that you will read them with Candor & with that attention they deserve, & I shall be thankful for your Opinion of them, especially of the Mathematical Controversy, in which you are doubtless a more competent Judge than any we have among us.—meantime I remain,

S^r

y^r most abedient
humble Servant
SA. JOHNSON.

S^r I make bold to
Send you a little piece
of mine lately published by our College.

[Indorsed]

To
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
in
Ulster County.

From Peter Bours

NEWPORT Dec.^{br} 8th 1743

S^r

I was honoured with yours of 7th Nov^{br}. and do assure you that I esteem it a Singular Happiness to have any opportunity whereby our acquaintance may be continued, indeed your Scituation in the Country at some considerable Distance from New York has prevented my writing oftner to you than I have and I am loth to trouble you by the Post.—

I am mightily pleased with yours attempts in raising these curious grasses. I wish you success therein, He deserves great Encomiums who endeavours to promote the Interest of Succeeding Generations in undertakings

of this Nature, that I may have a Hand therein shall take care to provide some red Clover Seed as Soon as it is thrash'd from the Hay and forward the same to M^r. Moore the Dep^y. Secretary for your Son's Use, a Friend of mine in the Country has promised to furnish me with what I shall have Occasion for I have sent to M^r. Moore eight heavy Pistoles and twelve pounds this Currency to satisfy all Parties concerned in procuring those Plans for this Colony, he would have had it some months ago had not Cap^t. Griffith who promised to call on me for it been worse than his word, since which I have been to Boston and in the Country and so miss'd of him when he was here, I hope y^e Delay will be excused when y^e Circumstances attending it are known.

We expect this Winter to have a Confirmation of the Judgment you gave at Providence, it is thought by Some that the Massachusetts Government will Submit the Point. Our Council at Home who are the famous Murray and M^r Paris applaud your Judgment.

Whenever you think that I can be of any Service to you I beg of you to let me know it that I may have it in my Power to manifest my Regards for your Person and to demonstrate how Sincerely I am, D^r. S^r.

Your most Obed.^t Se^rv^t

PETER BOURS

Cadwallader Colden to Peter Bours

[Copy]

COLDINGHAM Jan^y 25th 1743/4

S^r

I am exceedingly obliged to you the kind expressions of Fr[iendshi]p in yours of the 8th of Dec^r & you may assure yourself I shall embrace every opportunity of showing my sense of it by serving you when ever in my power It will give me much pleasure to engage you into a correspondence by any means or subject that can be entertaining to you.

I (& I believe the Gentⁿ joined with me) had that pleasure which allwise attends an upright Judgem^t according to our own Consciences & tho we ought to propose nothing more to our selves yet certainly it gives an additional Satisfaction when we hear that our Judgement receives the approbation of those men whose Judgem^t has an universal approbation. I never knew the reason of your wanting a Copy of the Plan I was affraid yt it was occasion'd by a miscarriage of the Copy I sent

Mr Moore paid me six pounds for my son soon after I wrote my former to you. If you'll be so kind as to send some red Clover seed about a 100 weight & direct it to the Care of Peter De Lancey or Richard Nicholls Postmaster in New York I shall take care to pay the money or remit it in what manner you shall please to direct as soon as I shall receive your orders for that purpose. I mention both these names because Mr De Lancey is sometimes out of Town at his Country seat & shall be glad to have it at New York before the 1st of April that it may be sow'd next Spring. I am S^r

[Indorsed]

PETER BOURS

Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson

[Copy]

Dear S^r

You have obliged me exceedingly by your kind expressions of the 4th of Sept^r whereby you incourage me to think that my correspondence is not disagreeable to you. What you mention of Cap^t Midleton adds to any conceit I may have had of my performance in the Indian History by his not being affray'd of having his work clogg'd & born down with the weight of Mine I am sorry that it so often happens that the most generous Undertakings for the Benefite of the Nation are discouraged by the Malevolent & envious Tempers & that frequently even great Virtue is oppressed under such Influence as Cap^t Midleton's case seems in some measure to be. In such case it is

every honest man's Duty according to his Station to support the Innocent. You take, I am affray'd too much trouble in endeavouring to make my performance of some profit to me. Tho' as I formerly said my circumstances are not such as to despise any thing of that kind yet I can with great Sincerity say that I have gain'd the chief end of my writing it by its being in any measure acceptable to you & I will have ample Satisfaction if it should any way prove usefull to the publick I thought it more likely to be so about this time because some Treaty of Peace & Commerce must in all probability soon ensue with France & if that book could in any measure draw the attention of the Ministry or of the Parliament to regard the Interest of North America in respect to the Fur trade & the Incroachments which the French on our Trade & Settlements I should hope that I have been of some use to my Country. For this purpose you may perhaps not think it amiss to add by way of appendix what I formerly wrote of the Natural advantages which the People of New York have in carying on the Fur Trade beyond what the French of Canada have & which was sent to you by M^r Alexander with some other printed papers. You need not be affray'd (as you formerly hinted) that the French may thereby learn any thing in that Trade which they do not allready understand They know all that affair better than we do Their Ministers are well inform'd which I doubt ours are not They take much pains to be inform'd & never fail to incourage such as can give information or any way improve their Trade & Interest & they constantly employ men of sufficient abilities for that purpose while we take no pains & know little else besides what we learn from their books. As to matters of Fact asserted in my book I can sufficiently justify them either from our own publick Registers or from French Authors where our Registers are silent All that I am concern'd for is that the publication of that book be of advantage to the publick otherwise I think it would be a fault to trouble the publick with it & tempt people to throw away their time & money uselessly & as to this I

must trust to your Judgement for few men are indifferent enough Judges of their own performances. In case you continue to think that the publication may be usefull be not uneasy in order to make it profitable to me; if you employ an honest printer who will be willing to let another Share with him in a profit to which the other has contributed & has so much honesty as to be unwilling to defraud the other of his reasonable proportion I would trust him so far as not to be willing by any contract to increase his loss in case of a disapointment in his expectations 500 copies of the New York Edition were sold so that not one copy now for several years past can any where be obtain'd & this may give the Printer some encouragement For his advantage to the following purpose may be put on the Title page. *Wherein is shown how advantageous the Friendship of those Nations is to the Settlement & Trade of the British Subjects all over north America & what pains the French have taken to withdraw their affection from the English A matter which may deserve attention at a time when a Treaty of Peace & Commerce may be expected between Great Britain & France* This I propose for the Benefite of the Printer for otherwise I dislike promising Title pages. But as to every thing relating to this book I submit entirely to you You must do with it as you think proper for it is really yours

I was truly surprised with Linnaeus's progress in Botany who I am inform'd is a young man He must be of prodigious Application His Characteres Plantarum will be of use what ever System is follow'd I never saw any thing done with that Accuracy. But in a Work of such extent some mistakes unavoidably happen one of which I have observ'd & have corrected in the inclosed paper. He makes the *Actæa* & *Christophoriana baccifera* to be of the same Genus which by their Characters in that paper you will perceive they are not. As you tell me that you correspond with him you may if you please send it to him with my Thanks for his useful labour the Benefit of which has reached North America & I doubt not reaches

to most parts of the World You may offer him my Service in any thing wherein I can assist him. I hear that D^r Gronovius has published a Description of North American plants such a book is much wanted Please to let me know what reputation it has for if it has gain'd your esteem I shall be desirous of having it.

I shall next summer get some of that Kind of Helleborine for you which you desire tho' it be very probable that you have it already for it is to be found in many places in this Country. However as I do not find several common plants in this Country described in Linnaeus it is possible you may not have that for I think it is not to be reduced to any of his Genera tho it certainly belongs to that class which he calls Gyneudria

I thank you S^r for the Hystory of the Polypus It is very surprising & shows how much of the Natural History of things every day obvious to our sight is wanting. It is a notable instance of the Chain between Vegetables & Animals & which probably extends through the Whole Creation from the lowest degree of Vegetation in Minerals to the most perfect animal This perhaps may likewise assist an accurate observer in discovering something of the nature of Vegetation of which our Ideas (or mine at least) are very faint. It is now time to think that I am writing to a man of Business

[Indorsed]

Answer to M^r COLLINSON

Dec^r 1743.

From James Alexander

NEW YORK Jan^{ry} 22^d 1743/4

D^r Sir

I have yours of the 12th instant,—that method of Mortgageing has been Sometime in use here in order to prevent the charge of a bill in Chaucery so foreclose the Equity of Redemption, by Doing what a Court of Chaucery would order to be done viz Sell, pay debt interests &

Costs, & give overplus to Mortgager & if bona fide done, we take it there's no need of foreclosure—if you Send the money by a Safehand I shall receive it & remitt it to Judge Burnet which Mr Brown has requested me to do as to all the money that comes in for Lands.

Parker has printed the English part of your paper very well, as to the Latin he has indeed blundered but that is not of so much moment—the paper I believe & hope has had the Effect desired to witt to Convince a Majority of our Magistrates of the necessity. of removing Skinners Tanners &c to fresh water & of Either cleaning or filling up the Slips before Summer and measures are takeing for doing those things & putting their former Laws as to the keeping clean the Streets & docks in better Execution—All whom I have talkt to on this head think themselves & the City very much obliged to you for that paper than which nothing would be more necessary nor Seasonable

The Comet was Seen at Philadelphia before Christmas—I heard nothing of it till the 2^d of January when D^r Spencer told me that he was told a blazeing Star was Seen by the people. I had askt him & M^r Kennedy to Spend the Evening, but was kept from them by Alderman Johnson Mr Murray & Mr Smith consulting on the form of a bylaw for removeing the Skinners &c, when they departed casting up my Eyes to the Stars at first sight I saw the Comet & went in & told Mr Kennedy & D^r Spencer I had Seen it & it was very visible—as I had their Company I Did not Attempt to make any observation of it that night. But on the next I Did but found the Cold So Sharp & my Eys So bad, that I could not bring any two Stars by a threed in a Line with it nor could I See the threed well as I heretofore did.

Last night is the first that I could take an observation with a threed chuseing a white threed and a Candle at Some distance behind me to Shine on it by which helps as the weather was moderate I made the two observations here with, which if just fixes its place last night

I have got Flamsteds works which contain I believe

all the Catalogue of Starrs & his own Britannick Catalogue with the maps Suitable published by his Executors, but still these are not apparatus Enough to Observe well nor Even readily to find what Starr it is that you find on a Line, a Globe would be much certainer.

I think this year of making Some Observations of the variation of the Compass, to begin about the End of April when the Star in Coxis of Cassiopea is on the meridian with & below the polar Star about or before ten in the Evening & its distance from the pole being about 31° its height of about 9° is perfectly Convenient to observe the variation—Alioth or the first in the tail of the great bear being on the Meridian at the Same time above the polar Star, is of use to be Sure of the other Star, for the perpendicular Threed from Alioth to the polar Star must hit in Coxis, I should be glad you would make Some Observations at the Same time in order to See what variation of the variation is betwixt your place and this, and to be the more certain of that, it would not be asmiss that we Exchanged Compasses in July in order to observe the variation by alioth when he comes under the pole in the fore part of the night which will not be till October—I should be glad that you would put Mr Clinton upon doing the Same & that you would Exchange Compasses with him. I think of directing [the] Deputies in Jersey all to do it & to Send their Observations, and also these nearest to Exchange Compasses with one another.

Since writing the above I have made another Observation of the Comet which I have indorsed on the former I wish I had a Micrometer to See how near it past to S pegasi which it will, very near two or three days hence.

I have given you at bottom of first Observation whats in Flamsteads to this far—Alioth, in Coxis, & polaris by which youll See that Polaris & in Coxis have the Same right assension in 1746, & all 3 are so near the Same that the Difference of coming upon the meridian is Less than the numbers in the Tables I am yours

JA. ALEXANDER

I find your paper is reprinting in the Pensilvania Gazette,
first part of it I received by this post.

pray favour me w^h your

Observations as freely

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
att Coldingham

From James Alexander

NEW YORK Febry 15th
1743/4

D^r Sir

As to W^m Smith I take it as he pays so much that the Common Security may do instead of the method I use—the only Difference is, that in the Method proposed, the Expense of a Chancery Sent to foreclose is saved, which in the Common way is necessary—I have wrote to M^r Brown by this post of your Sons proposal to pay upon rebate of the Common interest, that he may direct in it.

You'll be Disappointed as I was when you See the addition promised in Parkers paper. I asked Mr Pemberton who he conceived to be the author but as our witts could not fix in any body that was likely, we thought of Mr Noble, but upon better thoughts, for as Stupid as it is, yet its beyond his sphere, as, his thoughts are Confined to the Scripture and the Sellings of Goods, & has no notion what an atmosphere & other words there used do mean

I have observed the Comet every night that it was visible 11th was the Last time I saw it it has been dark weather till Last night, this morning I hear it was Seen in the East before Sunrise, which I believe because of its considerable North Latitude & from its So Soon appearance there, we may be well assured that it has past be-

tween the Earth & the Sun, & that its not yet arrived at its perihelion which must be to the Southward of the Ecliptick—As I find your thoughts are more usefully imployed I shall not trouble you with any of these Observations but two, which were of the nearest Stars it past by

Thursday 26th janry at 7ⁿ 30' the Comet was on the right hand of the Star markt S of Pegasus wing & Exactly of the Same Altitude or on a Levell with it to the Eye it did not Seem half a Degree from it but it was more, because my Ten foot Telescope just takes in the moon, but it Could not take in the Comet & S at the Same time, but as one vanished the other immediately appeared in the opposite Side I guess they were about 40' distant I think not more.

Tuesday Februry 7th at 6h 0' Markab Pegasi & the Comet appeared in my 6 foot glass, distant about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the aperture or about 20' Comet was on the Left Below & to the Southwards of Markab the Line between them by my judgment makeing nearly an angle of 45° with a perpendicular,—this Last Observation Shows the want we are in of a Micrometer for had I one its place might then have been fixed to one minute with Certainty.

I should be Sorry that you Should be persuaded to Lay aside your thoughts of those Discoveries So much heretofore wished for by others & hitherto Endeavoured without Sucess, tho it should take you off a little from other affairs which might possibly bring a more immediat gain to your family, Yet we ought to Consider that we are not here for our Selves & familys only, & tho' it be our duty to mind those in the first place, yet whats possible to be Spared from them, ought to be bestowed upon the good of Mankind, of which they will partake a part

The Discovery of the cause of Gravity is what I did not So much as hope for in my days, & to stifle that Discovery with the other things you mention in Consequence of it would be Cruel to your Self your family & mankind, & as you hope to be able to Demonstrate it, I hope you'll by no perswasions neglect doing it I shall Continue

anctious to hear of your progress in that matter and when you have reduced your thoughts to writting, to See them I am

D^r Sir

Yours most humble Servt

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

Att

Coldingham

ⓅFavour of M^r ALSON

From Peter Collinson

LONDON March 9 1743/4

Dear M^r Colden

You cannot be more Surprised att the progress of Botany in Doc^r Linnaeus than I am to See what a proficient you are in his Scheme I could not have Imagind It had reach'd in so Short a Time to the remote parts of North America for I hear He has made Several proselites—in Different places on y^r Contenent But your Fame reach'd Mee Long before yr Letter my Valuable Fr^d Doc Gronovius Lett Mee know what a fine present you have made Him the Good Man is in Raptures I doubt not but Doc^r Linnaeus has heard of it Long before this—it is a remarkable Instance what Leisure & Application assisted with a Great Genius can attain too. I shall Soone Send your Curious Observations to Doc Linnaeus y^r Criticisms are Ⓟfectly just you have done Mee a Pleasure in Circulateing It Through my Hands because it Setts Mee Right who have not Leisure for Such Nice observations & to the Doc^r I know it will give him the greatest Delight any omissions in Him is not owing to his Judgement but want of Growing Subjects whose Minute parts are more Distinct—which are Lost in Dry'd Specimens So that att the Same Time that you are Improving your own knowledge you are Greatly obligeing y^r Friend and if all his Pupils was Equally as Communicative as you are His

Works would be more perfect & Compleat It is no Little Disadvantage to Him to be Setled as in the fagg End of y^e World In His Letter to Mee he Envies Our Happyness who have a free & frequent Intercourse with ye World and our Gardens abound with its productions and then Wee have Annually Seeds & Specimens which produces Something New & proper to exercise the Talents of So Learned & Curious a Botanist

But a Gentleman of Y^r Benevolent Disposition may in Some Degree Soften the Severities of the North and Flora may in Some Little Disguise by y^r Assistance for once appear amidst Ice & Snow—a few Specimens preserved & Dry'd in paper, & a few Seeds, Sent him as opportunity offers, with your Curious Remarks—would be to Him all that I have allegorically Hinted and I will take care they shall be Safely convey'd to Him.

I am Glad to find the Polypus gave you Some Entertainment the Searching after this has been a Means of Makeing New Discoveries in the Minute Creation one is called the Bell animal and is found und^r the Lenticula palurtris—it takes its Name from its Figure being Like a Bell of the Size of a Silver Penny and from its Center it putts forth Fibrils from Ten to fifteen in Number which on any Motion or Touch Shrinks in & then project out and are presumed to be as so many Hands to Collect its Nourishment to give you a Little Idea of It I here inclose a Scetch—

another Strange Surprising animal I saw by the help of a microscope very Distinct Like a Small Smooth Caterpillar which is called the Wheel animal from haveing in its Snout or Head Two Wheels one att Each Corner Exactly Like the wheel of a Watch, these seeme to Turn on pivets or on a Center with Such a Velocity that one can Scarsly See their Teeth—both Wheels going together is one of the Wonderful pretty Phenomenas I ever Saw, it is an aquatic animal & this Motion in the Water is Wee apprehend Intended to Draw all the Little animalcule for its Support within its reach.

Poor Cap^t Middleton meets with Renew'd attacks on his

Character so your Curious Treatise for the present Lies Dormant It is att this Juncture under Cap Rutherfords perusal who Seems a very obligeing agreeable Gent^m

I am entirely of y^r mind that It Deserves the perusal of the Legislature but att this Juncture Wee are greatly Embarressed with an Intended Invation from Dunkirk with the pretenders Son att the Head—and there is Reason to Suspect Some plotting att Home from whome the French hoped to Reap great advantage Butt Wee have confidence in the Good hand of providence to Frustate all their Designs, By the Vigilance of the Government att Home & Our Fleet In the Channel The Rear Admiral Mathews after 3 Days Terrible Hott Engagements has obtain'd a Compleat Victory over the French & Spanish Fleet that saild from Toulouse The French Scheme by the Gréat Bluster that they make to Invade us is to Distress our Alliance with the Queen of Hungary. By preventing the Kings going abroad & Obligeing us to Recall Our Troops from thence

In a Boxe of Instruments to M^r Alexander I refer you to an answer to y^r Letter to M^r Sissons

I am with much Respect

Y^r affectionate Fr^d

P. COLLINSON

M^r Strahan Intends you a favour Soone

[Indorsed]

For
Doc^r COLDEN
Coldenham
New York

From Alexander Colden to Gilbert Livingston

NEWBURGH March 19th 1743

S^r

M^r Livingstone

Leonard Cole is now with me and offers me some Creatures for his debt which I have refused He has beged of me to give him time to make the money that

I also refuse to do for I leave it intirely to you to get me the money as soon as possible its that I want & the Sooner I have it the better. I Have not seen nor hear'd from Captⁿ Campbell this winter I am

S^r

Y^r

Very humble Serv^t

ALEX^R COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To GILBERT LIVINGSTONE Esq^r
at
Kingstown

From James Colden

D. B.

I would have wrot to you the beginning of last month, but when I waited on Cap^t Rutherford he promised to write me before he went of, and I trusting to that delayed writing till I should hear from him, I now hear he went for London Some time Since So I shall lose the opportunity, of writting by him, but I hope this may come time enought because it is probable that Since France hath declared war agt us, the ships will not Sayl before convoy can be got ready for them. I have been in a very bad State of health the most of this winter, with a gravel Cholic and violent vomiting which reduced me So low that I could hardly walk. I bless God I have had Some respite for Some weeks past, and have recovered Some more Strength my wife was delivered of a daughter October last whom I named Liliias after her She is a very pleasant thriving Child; my other Children thrive very well and as yet Seem to be abundantly towardly poor Cad is not quite free of his Distemper; but is much better than he was and Seems blessed with a very fine Genious, I durst not let him go from me and therefore his brother taught him Several parts of the mathematicks and book keeping which he learns better than could be expected. George makes a very good Cabbinet maker:

John is a strong lively boy but as yet too young to go to any employment and my youngest Son Will appears one of the liveliest boys can be but Speaks or yet very ill tho he be about three years and an half old I was at Ed^r the week before last and left my Eldest daughter Kate at a boarding Schole Jean thrives very well and doth betty and their mother is beginning to learn them to Sow there hath been a batle fought lately betwixt the English fleet and the combined fleets of France and Spain by the Admirals letter to the Admiralty it appears that what advantage was fell to our Share tho it was but lite and it is a wonder it was any Seeing Admiral Lestock with 17 Ships fell more than 5 miles a Stern of the rest of the fleet and never came up till the action was over we all Joyn in offering our tenderest love to you our Sister and your Children I offer my duty to my Aunt if she be yet alive and am D. B.

Your most affectionate Brother

JAMES COLDEN

Whitsom 3^r Aprile

1744

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r at New York
to be forwarded by the first Ship
either for New York or Boston
NEW ENGLAND.

R - d Nov^r 17 1744

Answer'd the 8th of Dec^r
1744 with a 2^d Ac't of my
Aunt's will so far as
respects him

[Note by CADWALLADER COLDEN.]

From Joh. Fred. Gronovius

April 3^d

Dear Sir

A month ago I hath the pleasure, that my particular Friend Mr. Canwan from S^t. Christopher, going to London, did me the favour to take a smal pakket with Him,

directed to You, in order to look there for an occasion to send it to You. In the same packet You will find an answer to Your characters, the *Fundamenta Botanica* of Linnaeus, and his *Critica*, with the second part of the *Flora virg.* and my *Index Supellectilis*.

Since I have found that Your character, of which you send me a specimen under num-19 is responding to the *Diesvilla*: but I believe a quite different species.

In the mean time I had an occasion to write to my good friend Linnaeus and to get an answer from Him, of which I communicate to you some particulars.

Literas 17 Sept. datas accepi: ex iis percepi placuisse summo Arbitro novum creare in America Botanicum si Ille tam multa praestet per Te ac Claytonus, erint plantae Americanae certiores quam Europae; et nulla rerum vicissitudo plantas et hos Botánicos unquam oblitterabit. Videtur certe Cl. Coldenus vir acumenatus & oculatissimus: hoc tamen video, quod si ipsas plantas non communicat nobiscum minus utilis erit. hoc vero si fecerit, erit systema sexuale, et plantarum characteres, &c differentiae tales, quales tota Germania ne quidem Europa unquam proculcabit. Incundissimae mihi fuerunt observationes ejus, quas mecum communicasti, Ego ad Singula respondeo. In Iride n. 9 non videt fannam genitalem faecundare stigma ♀ nullibi evidentius fit, si a tergo stigmatis fissuras per foliola stigmatis decurrentes inspiciet. Num. 11. de fructu cephalanthi optime scribit, quem ego non videram sed ex vaillantio in Act. Paris, assumseram et ille forte ex horto malal. Coldeni descriptio videtur magis naturae conveniens, cum cephalanthus sit scabiosis affinis quibus semina semper nuda.

Num. 17. Quod vocat Involucrum est Gemma, quam describis in hoc genere esse petiolatum. Nectaria egregie describit, quae videre nequivisti. Fructus a te missus docit esse capsulam duram, nec nucem.

Num. 30 *Celastrus* hoc anno ex semine tuo in horto nostro academico floruit, et fructum protulit vidi et obstupui. Est profecto novi generis planta characteres dedi actis Societatis regiae inserendum

N. 65 Est paris catesb. p. 50, tab. 50. sive paris flore pedunculato nutante fl. virg. p. 48.

N. 75. in Hac specie observai tecum olim pistillum ad Styli basin fere divisum in tres partes.

N. 77. describit optime glandulas nectarii, quas si non haberet non esset Laurus.

N. 82. de Staminibus X. idem in characteribus inter observanda, numerus proportionatus non dividet genera naturalia. Idem ti' habes in fl. virg.

N. 94. Circulus hic rubens est receptaculum floris. color nil facit ad res.

N. 95. stamina 15. bene ideog. ad Icosandram spectat si stamina a 12 ad 100 calyci inserta. vix plura in nostris Europaeis.

N. 110. clematis semper mal. Vella hoc ipse videre, quomodo se tum propagaret. Dabit dies feminam huic clematitidi, et marem aliquando tuo melanthio, quem a Claytono quam primum debes expostulare.

N. 123. Calyx coloratus. corolla herbacei coloris est egregia observatio.

N. 138. Character est satis perfectus: proin affinis cereis aut Sophorae. Sed dantur Indigophorae staminibus distinctis, ad cog. vereor quod eo pertineat. Debimus dare Coldeno novum Genus a se inventum et distinctissimum, quod aliquando numquam cum alio genere conjungi posset. Si liceret videre omnes ejus characteres aliquando eligerem te consentiente inter eos genus maxime conveniens.

N. 175. &c. Orchides, Limodora et affinia copiosa in America. Multae depictae a plumeno in Manuscriptis. Sed partes fructificationis in fere nullis satis descriptae. Has species ad genera nullus referre potest, nisi qui videt vivas. Siccae cum deturpatus plura genera constitui debent ex Americanis.

N. 177. Sisyrinchium ad Syngenesia refert: sic et ego primum cogitabam; sed dein centus examinavi flores, nec dubium est de Gynandria.

N. 195. Sagittaria Diaecia. Utinam accurate describeret hanc: forte esset distincti generis. An alismatis an

Sagittariae? an novi generis? certe nescio. Dum potes quaeso mitte ad me omnia quae a Coldeno accepisti, eaque mecum communica. Utinam ad te plantas mitteret, uti Claytonus.

These are the remarks which Dr. Linnaeus hath made upon somme heads of Your Characters, about which I hath write to Him. To satisfy Him more I lett copy for Him al Your character.

At the next occasion You shall see The oratio Linnaei de Telluris habitabilis incrementis, and Celsi oratio de mutationibus generationibus quae in superficie corporum caelestium contingunt. In boath of which You shall find curious observations.

I hath kept this letter with me with intention as soon the winter is gone to send it to you. It is now the 26 of february, when our public Trek boats went the first time to Amsterdam in this winter, having had a mighty pleasant frost, only two days very severe. but no snow at all. In the meantime I discovered that my friend who hath the care of the before mentioned pakkeds, hath not done right with some other pakkeds, I suspect the same accident may happened to the pakket directed to You, where fore I send to You another copy of Linnaei his characters, of the flora virginica, of the fundamenta Botanica and my Index. Besides another copy of my remarks upon your characters. There was in the before mentioned pakked a Letter to You, but having no copy of it, I hope you shall excuse me to write another. The summa summarum was, that I always shall be glad with your Letters and sincerely answer to them: the second part of my letter was that I thinking and meditating for a naturall systema of the cochleae and conchae so that I beg you will be so kind to send to me the Testae of the Land and zea-snails which are common in your country, and if there are to be met some shells and oysters, you shall oblige me with a coppal of eachs species.

If you have any thing for me, pray direct it to Mess. Dan. & Bar^d. Van Zadelhoff merchands at Amsterdam,

by whose care You^l get this packed. I shall be glad to hear from You as soon you have received these things. If I can be more of any use to You pray command freely.

Your most obedient servant

JOH. FRED. GRONOVIVS

Leyden April 3, 1744

P.S. As you have seen that Dr. Linnaeus hath desired a copy of all Your characters, I have send them to Him. I hope by my next letter to You, to have more of his considerations upon them, which I shall faithfully communicate to You.

From Will Strahan

LONDON May 9 1744

Sir

I was favoured with yours of the 3^d Dec^r. last in answer to a Line I sent you by M^r Collinson's Direction. The Desire you have of promoting any useful Discovery is very laudable; but in the present Case I own I do not think it can be of the Benefit you seem to imagine. For as to the Books you mention, tho' they are of great and lasting Utility, their Sale is very insignificant besides, that they are the Properties of particular Persons, who have always a Number by them Sufficient to supply the Market, and therefore would not easily if at all, be induced to try any other Method of printing than what they have been used to. In the mean time I make no doubt but what you propose might be useful in some Sorts of Tables, such as Tables of Interest, Logarithms, &c provided the first Expencc was not too great. At present the Printers here keep several Things which are often wanted, continually Standing, such as the Psalms in Metre in all Sizes, the Proverbs of Solomon, Several School Books, and Classick Authors, the Childs Guide, the Catchisms &c &c till the Types are quite worn out, which you know answers the very same End as the Method you propose. As to what you mention of some Sorts of Wood, I own I do not know any thing of the

Way you would use them, and therefor can form no Judgment of their Usefulness, nor do I desire or expect you Should discover any thing of it to me, without the Consent of the Person you mention, who has already tried it, and whose Business it is to profit by any Discovery his uncommon abilities may enable him to make From the Character you give of him, I am sure it must be Mr Franklin you mean, whose Fame has long ago reached this Part of the World, for a most ingenious Man in his Way. I have had the Pleasure of corresponding with him lately, and have Sent him by the Mercurey Captain Hargrave, one of my Journeymen, to whom he intends to give the Management of one of his Printing houses. His Name is David Hall. If he is Settled near you, as is probable, or if you should chance to meet with him any where else, I should be extremely obliged to you, if you would Show him any Civility in your Power, as he is a Stranger, and a most deserving young Man. He can inform you fully how Printing affairs Stand here.

I am greatly indebted to you for your kind offer of serving me. The Prices of Paper and Printing here are now very reasonable. Good Printing Demy Paper—(which is the Size commonly used) may be had at 10, 11 or 12 Shillings a Ream, and other Sizes in proportion, viz Crown Paper at 7 or 8 Shillings, and Pot Paper at 5 or 6 Shillings a Ream Printing 1000 Copies of a Sheet on a Pica Letter costs a Guinea, and one Shilling for every 100 over that Number; and so in proportion, according to the Size of the Type and Page—Note a Pica 8^{vo} Page contains 38 Lines.

I likewise sell all Sorts of Books; so that if any of your Acquaintance want any, I shall be obliged to you, if you'll direct them to me in Wine Office Court in Fleet Street. I shall be very well pleased if, in Return for your Kindness, I could be of any Service to you in this Place. Mean while I shall be extremely glad to keep a friendly Correspondence with you, and am

Sir

Yours most obedient Servant

WILL: STRAHAN

Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson

[Copy]

June 1744

Dear Sir

I cannot take the Compliments you make me on the subject of Botany in yours of the 9th of March otherwise than as an incitement to pursue that Study with more Accuracy for I am very sensible how deficient I am in that knowledge. It gives me however a good deal of pleasure to learn from you that what I sent to D^r Gronovius was acceptable to him for till I receiv'd yours I did not know so much as that it had reached his hands. I think that all Lovers of Botany & the People of America in General are obliged to that Gentleman & ought to assist him as they can it was chiefly with this view & to give him my share of the general thanks that I presumed to trouble him with any thing from my self. If he'll think proper to give me any particular Directions I will cheerfully serve him as far as my Skill can & time will permit I have no secrets in Knowledge but rather a strong inclination to communicate whatever I think may be useful & this perhaps may have made me troublesome to you & may make me appear vain to others but you have receiv'd every thing with so much partiality in my favour that I persuade my self you intertain some such favourable opinion of my Intention.

It is probable my application to Botany may be interrupted not only by business but by my thoughts being turn'd to another Subject The attempt I am now upon is so bold that I dare not trouble you with it or even to mention the subject till it has undergone the examination of some Friends here. No doubt you will hear of a Philosophicall Society now forming at Philadelphia They have given an invitation to several in the neighbouring Colonies to join with them & have done me the honour to take me into their Society, tho I be not in any manner acquainted with any of them except M^r Bartram who has undertaken the Botanical part. He is naturally

a wonderful observer but when I saw him had not acquired sufficient knowledge of the Principles of Botany as a Science. No doubt he is every day improveing The want of the latin tongue is a great loss to him, & yet he can tollerably understand a Botanical Description in latin which surprised me when I saw him last at my house. I have not as yet seen any thing from the Philadelphia Society & its probable that the members of the other Colonies will wait for an example from those of Philadelphia before they'l offer any thing so that I cannot tell what expectations to give you of that undertaking. We have in America for some time past made great progress in Aping the Luxury of our Mother Country I am glad that some now indeavour to imitate some of its Excellencies. You see S^r that I have little to intertain you from hence but I hope by the next fall to have some Botanical Observations for your friends & something else to amuse you or them especially if what I am now upon please them to who's Judgement I have submitted it & I could not let these ships go without acknowledging the favour of yours & praying the continuance of your favours. M^r Alexander was from home when the Ship arriv'd & I have not heard from him Since
To M^r COLLINSON

From James Alexander

NEW YORK June 10th 1744

D^r Sir

I have the favour of yours of the 2^d, with the map desired and for which I am much obliged to you, and I believe it will be of good Service to Spratt & me in that affair

by my last wrote a few days after I returned from Amboy I sent you Coppy of the Contents of Sissons box of instruments

I am glad you have made Experiments of the Differ-

ent variations of the needle by bending it but am at Loss what Shape its bent to, & not to varie the variation in the Least

It was my Compass that James Livingston had at the mannor of Livingston, made by Scott, And with Mr Rowley the then most noted instrument maker, when I came to America & my Compass which showed the variation to be between $7^{\circ}20'$ & $7^{\circ}30'$ at the Mannor of Livingston must probably show it to be nearly 7° at your house, for we See the Variation Encreases to the Northward so as to be 25° or 30° & even to 45° in Davis's Straits & Hudsons bay & decreases to the Southwards Seing its very Litle in the west india Island.

the Surveyors of Pensilvania & Maryland in 1739 agreed it was (15 miles South of Philadelphia) only $5^{\circ}30'$ after many observations & so run the temporary line

the two Jersey Surveyors who were at Livingstons tryal, have told me they have Since that tryal frequently observed the variation by Cassiopeias hip at their houses in Monmouth County, & all their Observations are under 6° & they Esteem it between $5^{\circ}30'$ & 6° & allowing for the Distance that the mannor of Livingston is North of your house, I believe the variation must be about $20'$ more there than at your house & Consequently your Compass & mine must agree but all Mr Clintons Compasses on the view differed about a Degree from mine there & consequently showed the variation there but $6^{\circ}20'$ which makes it Look odd they Should agree with yours which from the reasons before would Seem to agree with mine & show the variation at the mannor of Livingston the Same as mine did

I am Extremely pleased with your introduction to the Doctrine of fluxions for its put in Such a clear light as I never Saw it before, & I think the world will be much obliged to you for it if you'll favour them with it, I have Examined it with all the care in my power in order that there might be no room to Cavill with it upon the publication, & I have Endeavoured to do as I would be done by, that is not to find Objections only but also to show

which way I think it can be mended, which I hope may assist you to find more Suitable amendments to the places which I think want it—these amendments are here inclosed with the introduction of both which I have taken Coppies which if you do not approve of, I will Send to you as I had not Express Leave So to Do

I have been much hurried ever Since my coming from jersey So that I have not been able to apply heartily to the Examining your Theory of Gravitation, and am afraid I shall not get time to do it till Bryant has Sailed which I hope may be about ten days hence

The map & account I shall Send to M^r Brown, by the first good opportunity saving postage, also your Letter to him

Mr Collinson's Letter I shall also inclose w^h mine to him—I am

Yours most Humble Servt

JA. ALEXANDER

I Condole the Loss
of your Aunt

P. S. june 12th my wife Sends you a present of ½ doz brandy ½ doz french white ½ doz french claret & 1 Doz Madera—I hope it may come Safe—I have packt it as well as I can the key of the hamper is inclosed

The Land at Esopus's my wife has a great opinion of as it has Come by her—She thanks yow for the map we have Engaged Some persons at Esopus to procure us information concerning it, one part was to get a map with the pretentions of all Sides Laid down on it & for that purpose to traverse in the most privat manner to the Corners of the Several pretentions which is done in part, & tho' stopt in doing it, its promised to be Done—I am Sorry to find that the Paltz has much Encreased on us—& not by mistake, but knowingly, if the information we have be true

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
Coldingham

From Evan Jones

July 17th 1744

Much Esteemed

Frd Colden when thee left my house I promised if business did not hinder to come & see thee before thee set out on thy Journey, but I think it is Generally my fortune to be Impeded in those very things w^{ch} I have y^e greatest mind to perform, & it is the cares of this life & Hurry of business w^{ch} hinders at this time, & hope thee'll take my good will in lieu of the deed but as to y^e other part of my promise & readily will Comply wth, & w^{ch} is fully Express in the Inclosed. It is my Opinion y^t every Candid & upright man will (agreeable to the Sundry Stations of Life they are plac'd in) not only think it their duty, but also Endeavour to Advance & promote the Generall good of his fellow Creatures; humanity, & benevolence of mind tho' never so variously Diversified, will ever be a throwing in of their mites into y^e Common Stock, for y^e Improvem^t of publick welfare, nor indeed can any art or science prevail nor thrive much in any place or Country where men's Inclinations are rather now bent to self Interest; cramp'd up to mean & narrow veins; serving themselves without Limitation; this being their Cheifest aim, the promotion of self Interest, haveing little or no notion, nor regard for y^e good of the common welfare; & from hence woud be understood y^t every honest thinking member of any Comunitie ought in some measure to Postpone some parts of self Interest as well as self Ends when y^e publick welfare lyes at stake, it is very true & not strange y^t every member in all sort of societies may not be Equally Qualifi'd for this in all sorts of improvement, some are qualifi'd for this & others for y^t & none Exempted (or but very few) who are willing & Sincere, to Employ their minds in the best manner their severall, & variously Different Capacities will admit of, there is no doubt nor scruple on these reasonable supossitions every member woud be usefull in their proper places & Stations wherein nature & providence

has allotted y^m too—this sort of Discourse naturally leads me to Confess very frankly to af^rd. y^t I myself have been less usefull for the publick service then I might have otherwise been, had I Employd my one Talent in the best manner: yet I woud not accuse myself, nor dare not, to do my self Justice charge myself wth Concealing of any publick good for the common wellfare from any principles of self Interest or private views. No I assure thee it was not y^t, my mind has not been much pester'd wth y^m; but it was rather oweing to a Timerous & unactive habit I had got into & by Long Continuance was the Cheifest reasons of even forgetting the most materiale matter w^{ch} I mostly admir'd—I need not Inform thee, were I ever so capable, nor to tell thee how absolutely necessary it is to be Constantly Improveing the little space of time allotted to us in the pursuit of useful knowledge, this method would be of more substantiall & reale service to y^e world then y^e greatest affluence of Riches & Wealth, w^{ch} at best is but perishing & uncertain; the other a permanent & lasting monument of good to all future prosperity. I have a few more things to say on my own acc^t. w^{ch} I hope will not be any additionall tresspass & y^t is to Confess I have often blushd & been Confus'd at thy Sundry Solicitations, requesting me to give some acc^t of the Experim^t I made on the bite of the rattle snake & never till now made any attemp^t to gratifie thy Inclination, & tho' I was convinc'd as if I had it by Demonstration y^t thee had no other views in it farther then a Generous principle of makeing it publick for the benefitt of mankind, & more Especially to many hundreds of poor people far Distant from any help or assistance from men in practice, therefore now I most willingly Communicate the Tryall & Experiments I made & is sett apart in the Inclosed & thee may freely put it into what other Dress thee pleases & then Communicate y^e same for the aprobation of y^m Gentlemen in Philad^a who have formd y^mselves into a societie for the propogation of useful knowledge please to make my kind regard acceptable to Doct^r Thomas Bond also to our honest Frd James

the Botanist & to all y^e Gentlemen of y^r. societie tho am personally unacquainted &c. I am wth sincerity thy lo. & respected Fr^d.

EVAN JONES.

[Indorsed]

To
Doct^r COLDEN at
his house
These

Colden's Observations on the bite of a rattle snake.

(Written on back of the above letter)

In the Beginning of August 1743 a Steer belonging to Dr Jones was brought home in the evening with his Milch Cows to the Penn nothing was observ'd to ail it at that time In the morning the Head was swell'd to an excessive bigness & the eyes so much that the Beast was become quite blind The whole body was apparently swell'd but more the nearer to the head as the neck & shoulders. A constant stream of seizy fluid issued from his mouth not unlike that which flows from the Mouth in a very high Salivation rais'd by Mercury. The Head was so swell'd that the beast could not raise it from the ground but stood stupid & senseless The Doctor did not doubt of its being bit by a Rattle snake & having no oyl at his house he heated a pint of hogs lard so as to make it thin, pour'd one half of the Pint down the steers throat & rub'd the other half well into the nose & other parts of the head In half an hour he observ'd the beast grow much better the flux from his mouth lessen'd he was able to raise his head up & began to walk. About an hour & a half after the first potion he gave the same quantity a second time & in two hours after this 2^d potion the flux from the mouth entirely ceased & the steer began to eat grass For further Security the Doctor gave him a 3^d dose & by the next morning the beast seem'd as well as ever & continued so afterwards.

About 14 days after this the Doctor's Aprentice William Allison having catch'd a Ratle snake a live was

desirous to make further trial of the efficacy of the Hogs lard. He took a dunghill Cock & having pluckt the feathers from one of his thighs he exposed it to the Rattle Snake & he was sure the Rattle Snake bit the Cock twice or thrice on that thigh. He kept the Cock without applying any thing till he saw the thigh very much swell'd & a thin Ichor issued from the Orifices made by the Snakes bite which run down his leg & dropt of at his toes, & setting the Cock down on the ground found him so stupid that he could not walk. He then melted half a spoonful of hogs lard pour'd the greatest part of it down his throat & rub'd the rest into the thigh that was bit. He applied the Hogs lard by pouring part down the Cocks throat & rubbing it into the thigh two several times more at about 3 hours interval between the applications. In the morning the Cock seemed perfectly well except that the thigh kept for some time discolour'd which by degrees wore off. They purposely observ'd him for several days & found him as brisk among the rest of the Fowls as ever.

I shall only add that I have heard it observ'd by the Farmers long before the use of oyl on the Bite of the Viper was published. That Hogs were never hurt by the bite of any Snake tho' they have frequently been seen to seize snakes & to tear them to pieces or eat them. This I think may well be attributed to the Defence which a hog naturally has by the fat under the Skin which covers all the fleshy parts of his body & is a further proof of the Benefit of Fat & oily things in the Cure of the Bite of Vipers.

How happy is it for Mankind that one scarcely can at any time be destitute of an effectual remedy against the mischievous effects of this Poyson. The snake himself carries the Antidote along with him in his Fat if the snake escape that the Fat cannot be procured there can hardly be a house found without oyl or Lard or some kind of greese. Perhaps fresh Butter or Cream may be effectual or at the worst it may be procured by the Death of some Animal.

From this we may learn likewise not to despise Reme-

dies because common & which for that reason appear mean What Disease appears with more terrible symptoms & is more dangerous than the bite of y^e poisonous Snake or Viper & what Remedy appears more effectual tho brought from the farthest corner of the earth in any Desease than this common fat & oyl in the cure of this pernicious malady the Bite of the Rattle Snake. I shall in the last place observe that Fat & Oyl are found likewise to be effectual in the cure of several poisons taken by the Mouth if the Fat or oyl be timely exhibited especially of such poisons which have any acrimony which corrodes and inflames the Stomach as most poisons commonly do. I have several times cured sheep after eating a common poisonons plant growing in moist grounds called in this part of the Country the Dwarf Laurel by putting a lump of Hogs Lard or Butter down their throats.

From Peter Collinson

LONDⁿ Aug 23^d 1744

My Dear Fr^d:—

I was glad to find you had made such proficiency in Botanic Inquiries, you have a Large Field before you which will afford you a Lasting fund of Amusem^t—I Intended you no complements because your skill in that Science was Self Evident I again felicitate you on It for you Tast a pleasure but few know & have it, were Ever you go, the Wasts & Wilds which to Others appear Dismal to one of y^r Tast efford a Delightful Entertainm^t you have a Secret to beguile a Lonesome Way and Shorten a Long Journey which only Botanists know Every Step as it were Introduces new objects by these the Mind is highly Delighted Its Ideas Inlarged the Great Creator admir'd & adored, these are Sensations better felt than Express'd and the more you Gratifie y^r self in these Inquiries, the higher will be y^r Sensations.

This year my Ingenious Fr^d J. Bartram Sent Mee

Two Curiosities, a *Lychnidea* which produces a wonderful Spike of flowers but the Greatest is a Species of *Martagon* in its appearance untill it flower'd & then its flowers did not reflex like the *Martagons* but hung down Like the Crown Imperial they was of a deep Gold Colour on the Out Side & finely Spotted with purple within.

I can't enough commend the Authors & promoters of a Society for Improvem^t of Natural knowledge Because it will be a Means of uniteing Ingenious Men of all Societies together and a Mutual Harmony be got which will be Dayly produceing Acts of Love & Friendship and will ware away by Degrees any Harsh opinions, parties may have Conceived of Each other, the Fruits of Wisdome & knowledge are Excellent, besides the Mind being Enlarged the Understanding Improved, the Wonders in the Creation Explored, and Ingenious & Good people will know one another & Rejoice in the Friendship of those Like minded as themselves, and as there will be a Laudable Emulation to Excell in the Several Branches of Science the Same good Desposition will Influence them to Benevolence & Good will to Each other in Every Capacity.

I Shall wait with Some Impatience for their Memoirs I expect Something New from your New World, our Old World as it were Exhausted tho I really Mett with the other Day a very Singular odd Phenomenon in its Kind, w^{ch} I will briefly relate

This year I took a Tour with my family to See a Relation In the Isle of Wight I happend to go to a place Calld Crab Nighton famous for the Breeding of this animal—Inquireing of the Fishermen into the Nature of this Creature, I was told that if its Leggs was broke or Bruised and it could not (through weakness voluntarily) throw or break it off, it would bleed to Death, I wanted Faith Like S^t Thomas to Convince Mee a Large Crab was brought & Laid it on its back & then with a pair of Iron pinchers Wee Crack the shell on the thickest & Fleshiest part of its Legg—it bleed much, but in Less than a Minute it cast off its legg and there was Seen a

thick Gelly like Substance w^{ch} Stop'd the Bleeding w^{ch} is wonderfully provided for that purpose All Its Leggs Suffer'd the Same Operation, thus in a few Minutes the Creature was Legless—Now it is wonderfull to Consider by what Innate power It can crack & Break the Solid Shell (not in a Joynt) but in the Smooth p^t Its Flesh and Muscells, and all the Blood Vessells—as if Cut wth a Knife, I never was more astonish'd att so amazeing a Sight & to reflect how the operation was performed but as these Creatures are very Quarrelsome and what ever they catch hold off with their Great Claws they will break it, & hold it fast a Long while So to Save their Lives & gett Clear of their Adversary they break off a Legg & Leave it as a Trophy of Victory.

You will reasonably Expect to hear Some News of yr Manuscript—I have Lent to Mr Scroop who is pretty well Acquainted att the Helm & has not yett Return'd it

I am my Dear Fr^d very much y^{rs}

P. COLLINSON

[Indorsed]

For

Doc^r COLDEN
Coldenham

1744 M^r Collinson To Jonathan Sisson— D^r

£ s. d.

Aug ^t 30	For 2 Circumferenters with sights & a staff head made Strong with adjusting Screw & Circular Spirit level all made after a new method in the Compleatest manner	11.	11.	0
	For 2 Wainscoat Caps with locks Hinges	0.	16.	0
	For 2 Spare Needles & 2 spare Center pins	0"	10"	0
	For Maupertins degree of the Meridian from Paris & Amiens.....	0"	7'	6
Returned	For a Deal packing Case for D ^o	0"	2"	6
paid Aug ^t 29 th 1744		£13" 7" 0		

Copy of J. A.'s order to Sisson

P. S. June 22^d Since writing the within I have the inclosed Letter to you From Doctor Colden—you'll make for Doctor Colden the Circumferenter he desires, and at the same time be pleased to make one exactly like it for me in every thing, & send both to M^r Collinson whom I request to pay for them I am

Your humble Serv^t.

JA. ALEXANDER.

From Jonathan Sisson

S^r

I have fixed to the under side of the Circumferenter a Staff head consisting of 2 Plates of brass, on the upper one the Circumferenter has an easy horizontal Motion and may be fixed by the Milld head Screw any where as desired, the under plate as 3 Screws fixt in it which by Screwing or unscrewing either of them as required the Circumferenter may be brought truly level (till the bubble is in the middle) so by this means the Sights will be always perpendicular where as in the Common Sort there is no way to Sett them level but by the Eye & hand & then the horizontal Motion of the Socket is so bad that you cannot sett the Sights to intersect any object to no degree of Exactness, this method is something after the manner of adjusting my best Theodolite and makes the instrument very perfect, likewise under the plates are fixt a Socket & a loose ferril which fits it, which you must fix on your Staff head by taking of the Old ferril if it does not fit the new Socket & so fix the new ferril on by putting 2 rivets a Cross, if so be the wood should be too small you may put a little Stiff brown paper round to make it fit the ferril; there was no possibility of my making a socket to fit your ball & Socket and as that is so bad a way of Setting the Circumferenter Level

I thought it best to make it in the manner I have and to desire you to lay the ball & Socket's aside.

S^r

Y^r Hum^{ble} Serv^t

JONAth Sisson

London Augst 31. 1744

[Indorsed]

To

Doctor COLDEN

Observations of Cadwallader Colden concerning the erection of a Fort at Oswego as proposed at a Conference, Sept. 5, 1744.

The Council having seen the Narrative of the Free Conference on the fifth Instant, between them & the General Assembly published on their printed Votes of that day think it necessary to demand an Explication of some Facts & transactions in that Narrative First it is said that the reasons given by that Honble House seem'd Satisfactory to the Council why a Fort at the place recommended by the Council will be far from answering the end proposed by the Council.

On which the Council observe that the Council by no words declared that seeming Satisfaction

Council reasons given for building a Fort at that place were in substance as follows

1 That place is a pass of great consequence which it is necessary to keep open to preserve the Communication between this Province and other places of great Importance to secure the sending & receiving Intelligence Provisions Ammunition & supplies to secure the March of Forces and their retreat on any emergency & that if a Fort was not built that pass may be in danger of falling into the Enemies hands. These reasons for building a Fort at that place were then urged by the Council besides Some others which the Council does not think proper to repeat on this occasion

In answer to This one of the Managers of the Assembly said the Assembly had come to a Resolution that People might pass from this province to the other places mentioned in the Conference without going through that pass & that an escort of 25 men would on all occasions serve the purpose proposed by the Council But as it was not denied that the place proposed by the Council is the Common pass & that any other way is at a greater Circuit & more difficult & is well known to be so the Council leaves it to be Judged whether these answers of the Assembly to the reasons of the Council can seem to be Satisfactory.

It is true that the Council gave no reply to the Answers of the Assembly because the one of the Managers declared that the Assembly had come to resolution on that point & tho this expression was palliated after it had been taken notice of from the Council as extraordinary for that House to come to a Resolution on any point while the Conference subsisted & before the Council had any opportunity to reply to the Answers made by the Assembly to their reasons Yet the printed Votes will now justify the Council in their forbearing to urge a point which the council judged could be to no purpose however reasonable it (torn) the Council & when the disputing the assembly's reasons might only retard or prevent other Resolutions of that House which the Council thought necessary to be taken without delay.

In the next place the Council observes that in the printed Votes & Proceedings of that House of the 5th Instant it is said *That the Council did allow no more could be expected to be done at present upon this occasion* than what the Assembly has resolv'd as proper to be done whereas in truth the Council made no such Declaration but on the Contrary after these Resolutions were communicated to the Council The Council Recommended that part of his Excellency's Speech to be consider'd at this time wherein his Exce^{ly} recommended it to the assembly to enable him to send Commiss^{rs} to treat with Commiss^{rs} from the Neighbouring Colonies, for the mu-

tual Defence of each other & the joint annoyance of the Ennemy & the Council particularly set forth that it was the opinion of the Council that as Oswego was of great Importance for the safety of the Neighbouring Colonies as well as this by its being of the Greatest use in preserving the Six Nations in their Fidelity & from the Influences of French Artifices & Deceit the neighbouring Colonies would join with us in the support of that place & assist us with both money & men for that purpose To which proposal the Council could not obtain any answer from the Assembly such a Narrative has been published in the Votes & proceedings of the Assembly & since the Council presumes without the approbation of the House to publish an account of their proceedings at that Conference that the assembly will order the Narrative of that Conference to be amended so as to make it conformable to Truth.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

NEW YORK Sept^r 8th 1744

My Dear

I have the pleasure of yours by Mr Hansen who added to it by assuring us that you are all well but both you & I meet with a disappointment in our Meeting for Business stands still in such a state that I know it to be needless to ask leave to be gone All I can say is that I shall not easily be prevailed on to put my self in their power again But the present Circumstances of the War lays me under a necessity of staying unless I had an excuse that would take off all gain saying My friends here endeavour to make it easy to me by diversion for I am askt to all the publick Intertainments besides frequently to private houses. We have heard that the French of Canada are endeavouring to set the Indians upon us & are preparing for some attempt. There is likewise a considerable Naval force at Cape Breton while we spend all

our time in Consultations & Debates without doing any thing in earnest But I hope it will not continue long so The Taxes & personal services are like to be heavy on the Country this year which happens ill while the Country produce is so low. We expect News by the Post this evening having heard that Ships are arri'ed at Boston from England.

I have not heard from Betty this Week her husband was in town this day Week & said she intended to be in Toun sometime this Week to clean & I have expected her every day but I suppose the bad Weather has prevented her. Nancy had get perfectly well again & they were all well. I had a line from Alice by him. I am in hopes to see you by Nacks return & you cannot be more disapointed than I shall be if I do not. The Gov^r has got the Gout I never long'd more to be with you than I do now Johny & I are in perfect health Remember me affectionately to the Children

My Dear

You please me exceedingly by your taking some diversion in my absence & while you have so much care upon your hands & desire you would continue to do it that we may be both in the more cheerfull Disposition when we meet Were it not that I am frequently both forenoon & afternoon in Council & frequently in Company to divert the uneasiness I have by my absence it would be intollerable You may assure your self I will not delay one Moment after I can come to you

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

Johny is very usefull to me
& more carefull than expected

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at
Coldenham

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD Oct^r. y^e 20th 1744.

S^r

After receiving your kind Letter of April 30 I was a long while at Boston & when I came back it was again a Long while before I found it, it having been Some how mislaid: I must therefore beg you to consider these Circumstances as an Apology for my having not before now made any Acknowledgments to you for it.—I represented the affair you mentioned about the 500 Acres of Land, to the Society with all the Advantage I was able & hope it may take effect especialey if M^r Vesey has gone before me in it.

I thank you for your Kindness to M^r Watkins, & particularly in procuring him a passage: I hear he was Safe arrivd, & hope he is near returning.

Your Agreeing with the Bp about abstract Ideas will, I apprehend, if pursued into it's Consequences, go a great way, if not throughout, into the main principles which he contends for.—I am particularly obliged to you for the kind offer you make of favouring me with your peice upon Fluxions: This would be so much the greater Obligation at this Juncture as here is an ingenious Gentleman, one m^r prince, who is much more of a Mathematician than I am, & who having read the Bp's Analyst, has a great Curiosity to compare your System with his, & would be useful in assisting my Understanding on this Subject.

This Gentleman is very well acquainted with almost all parts of Learning, & especially the Classics, the Mathematics & the Newtonian philosophy, having been a Fellow & Tutor of Cambridge College above 15 years, but having differed with the Govern^{rs}. of that College about some Affairs in the Government of it, he has been obliged to quit it, & would willingly Set up a Classical & mathematical School at Jamaica on Long Island for Gentlemens Sons at New York, to which Sundry Gen-

tllemen have encouraged him: & as the means of Learning are So much wanted in that Government I think it would be a great pity it should drop through. & Should be much obliged to you if it should lie in your way to influence by undertaking—I shall be very proud of your. Correspondence being truly, S^r

y^r most obliged, obedient
humble Serv^t

SA. JOHNSON

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

at

Coldenham on
Hudsons River.

From Benjamin Franklin

Sir

I communicated your Piece on Fluxions to M^r Logan, and being at his House a few Days after, he told me, he had read it cursorily, that he thought you had not fully hit the Matter, and (*I think*) that Berkley's Objections were well founded; but said he would read it over more attentively. Since that, he tells me there are several Mistakes in it, two of which he has mark'd in Page 10. He say $X \times X$ is by no Means $= X + X$ nor is the Sq of $10 + 1 = 10:2:01$ but $= 100 + 20 + 1$ and that the Method of Shewing what Fluxions are, by squaring them is entirely wrong. I suppose the Mistakes he mention'd if they are such, may have been Slips of the Pen in transcribing.—The other Piece, of the Several Species of Matter, he gave me his Opinion of in these words, "It must necessarily have some further Meaning in it than the Language itself imports, otherwise I can by no means conceive the Service of it."—At the same time he express'd a high regard for you, as the ablest Thinker (so he express'd it) in this part of the World.—I purpose to wrote to you from N York next Week, and till then must defer saying any further on the last mentioned Piece. Enclosed I send you a Piece of D^r Mitchels' (of

Virginia) which I caus'd to be transcrib'd while he was here. He desires your Sentiments of it and to be favour'd with any other Observations you have made on the same Distemper (the Yellow Fever). When you have perus'd it, please to return it. I am. Sir

Your most hum^{bl} Serv^t

B. FRANKLIN

Philad^e Oct 25. 1744

Note by Colden

Suppose $x = 10$ & $x^a = .1$ one tenth not equal to unite as Mr Logan has it then $(10 + .1)^2 = 100 + 2 + .01$ I do not say any where that $xx^a = x + x^a$ for on the contrary xx^a I say is infinitely less than $x + x^a$ or than x for $x + x^a = x$ the difference being infinitely small

From John Bartram

November y^e 2^d 1744

Dear Respected Friend

this day our Good natured friend Benjamin Franklin brought thy Letter of October y^e 24th which I have read & read with pleasure & am well Satisfied that my endeavours to Gratifie thy former Civilities & present merit had y^e much desired efect I am sorry thee mist of procuring y^e seeds of y^e Arbor Vita I long to have that growing in my Garden but such disapointments often hapens.

I am obliged to thee for thy kind advice & offers to assist me in publishing A discription of our American plants which I have thought of Many times but am not yet very hasty in entering upon a Performance that requires mature consideration I have had several years past A specimen of A performance of this kind from y^e medical Society at Boston with an account that Doctor Douglas had described (according to that specimen which was done well according to Turnforts method) eleven hundred plants growing round & adjacent to Boston—allso ye Ingenious Doctor Mitchel hath discribed

curiously many of y^e plants in virginia & hath promised me A book as soon as possible he hath sent it to london to be printed when I am furnished with these materials than I shall be better enabled to proceed warily in so difficult an affair but I cant well pass by Giving thee some account of my friend Mitchel who is A Member of our Society he did me y^e honour of Calling at my house & staid all night. & I next morning to demonstrate the kindness & esteem I had for his Company went with him to town & he being an intire stranger I introduced him into y^e company of our friend Benjamin to whose Care I left him for y^e present. he staid in town near three weeks so that I had y^e favour of his Company many times at my house in y^e fields & in y^e woods which I was well pleased with he is an excelent Phisition & Botanist & hath dipped in y^e Mathematicks which inclined A Gentleman in Town well known to us to say to me that our docters was but novices to him. but another person more volatil & more extravagantly expressed his value for him tould me thay had not y^e Milioneth part of his knowledge—But notwithstanding y^e satisfaction I received in y^e Doctors Company I could not help mentioning my friend Colden to him & set thy abilities & Character in such A clear light before him which together with some specimens of thy performance so inflamed y^e docters mind (that tho his Constitution is miserably racked) he said that if he was sure he could See thee at York he would venture so far for y^e sake of A Little of thy Company.

Sir Hans Sloan hath ordered me A fine parcel of books some is come in & more I expect every day I wish thee would please to put 10 or 12 good seeds of y^e bush squash in y^e next letter thee sends me I think to send by this oportunity som seed of y^e Liberian Rubarb pray hath thee seen y^e snough box or Bitter gourd if not. I can send thee some seed this in hast from thine

JOHN BARTRAM

[Indorsed]

For

Dr CADWALADER COLDEN

From James Alexander

NEW YORK Nov^r 12th 1744

Dear Sir

I have yours of Oct^r 24th & Nov^r 9th. If the Chief Justice has Said he will yield to no reference but to the Chancellor of England, I believe he will not be Easily perswaded to alter those his Sentiments, and I am very far from thinking that any application or reasoning of mine with him can in the Least move him to alter them.—I thought you had proposed the method to him of Leaveing the matter to Mr Murrary before you went from hence—for my part I think the method you propose to be very proper, to witt first to Leave it to M^r Murray on bill answers & proofs, & then (if the parties or any be Dissatisfied) to the Chancellor of England, but if M^r Chief justice approves not of it, you must be Satisfied with the way he proposes or whats I think worse a Real Chancery Suit here, had I any hopes of prevailing with the Chief justice to accept of the way you propose I should very willingly wait upon him at his house in the Bowree to propose it, but as I have not the Least hopes I cannot Say I am willing to do it, and its a great chance if I see him any where Else than at his house till January term, If yow have not proposed this method to him your Self as I thought yow had done, I think the better way of proposeing it will be by a Letter from yow wherein yow can point out the reasonableness of what yow propose in Such a Light as that, if not on first reading, yet on 2^d or 3^d it may possibly have weight with him but I believe if the Same things were Spoke to him they would be of no weight, by reason of the quickness of his resolutions on what he hears.

If the father gave the house to him as his Eldest Son & as what he designed him over his other children & he accepted it on those terms and if that deed he dated after the will and after purchases of real Estate made posterior to the will, It would Seem to me that theres a

great deal of Equity that the Chief justice Should Convey Such after purchases according to his fathers intent at that time, tho unquestionably Such after purchases do not pass by the will notwithstanding Such intent So Declared. But as to any Lands purchased after that deed, even tho the intent had been Expressed as you mention, It would Seem to me that Such after purchases could no way be affected therewith—for tho he Designed him no more at the time of that Deed, yet it noway follows that he did not Design him more afterwards and both Law & Equity will Say he did Design for him whatever he afterwards purchased, by not Disposeing of it by his will as he might have done, and I Shall even Suppose that after Such purchases he had Twenty times verbally Declared that his Eldest Son Should have no more of them than the rest of his children, yet, tho at those twenty times he might have so intended, he might at other times & afterwards intended otherwise & both Law & Equity must Say he intended otherwise at his Death by Leaving them undevised and Consequently to Descend to his Eldest Son

I take it the Chief justice may be obliged to Discover in Chancery the terms on which that deed was given & accepted, and that it may be of use as to purchases made between the dates of the will & deed, and if Expressed to be in order that all his other Lands & Estates that he should die Siezed & possest of should be equally divided amongst his children, I conceive it might even in that case affect the purchases made after that Deed, as a mutual agreement, for the performance whereof the father gave that Consideration

I remember a Late case of a will where a man in the most Express and plain words Devised to his wife all the Lands & real Estate that he then was Seized of or Should afterwards purchase or be Seized of at the time of his Death but notwithstanding there was no gain saying the intent of the Testator yet it was adjudged that Lands after purchased did Descend to the heir & did not pass by the will, and this Judgment was Con-

firmed by the house of Lords, I have often read the case in which there are many arguments, but none weighed with me but one viz Lands were not Deviseable at Commonlaw—it was the Statute of wills of Henry 8 that made them deviseable, and So the Common Law was altered just so far as that Statute directed and no farther, And that Statute Says a man being Seized &c may Devise what he is So Seized of—but of what he purchases after the will, he was not Seized at the will & therefore not authorized by that Statute to Devise it, at the time he did Devise it.

But tho an intent Expressed So in a will would no way have affected the after purchased Lands, yet I think a Deed made & accepted on Such terms may be binding in Equity to Compell him who accepted on those terms, to perform those terms which he accepted it upon

I Shall always be ready to give the best assistance & advice to Peter in my power, he has not been for any Since I had yours, if he comes I shall advise his waiting for your Letter to the Chief justice which I have before proposed, if which does not weigh with him I am Confident nothing else will, and that theres nothing Else to be done but accept his proposal

I Do not know that our publick affairs as to Defense are in a better State than you left them or like to be while this assembly has a being

As to the affair of William Smith, as that is a matter principally under your care for Mr Brown its your agreement to any matter concerning it & not mine than can be of any force—M^r Nichols haveing made a like proposeal for your Son I communicated it to Mr Brown, his answer thereto dated Oct^r 5th is in these words—*would now say on M^r Coldens proposeal by his father in Law M^r Nichols that whenever you have an oppertunity to remitt his money to judge Burnet that yow accept of this offer*

I am much of your mind that Mr Franklins proposeal of a Society will prove very usefull—at our last Court M^r Chief justice M^r Horsmanden M^r Murray M^r Smith

& Several others sent their names as members of the Society, his piece about his new invented Stove chimneys is very much approved of here & Shows him to be a man of Sense & of a good Stile—your Son tells me theres one of these pieces for you—I shall be very glad to See him here at New York, & shall give him all the Encouragement in my power to proceed in the affairs of the Society & other useful undertakings—its no wonder if Mr Logans memory fails him or does want attention, considering his age, & that distemper of the palsy which too close attention is apt to bring upon him I am

D^r Sir

Your most humble Servt

JA. ALLEXANDER.

To
D^r COLDEN

Cadwallader Colden to Joh. Fred. Gronovius

[Undated and Unaddressed]

[December, 1744]

Dear S^r

Your favour of the 3^d of April which I did not receive till the 15th of Nov^r has so far exceeded the fondest of my hopes that you have thereby laid me under the strongest obligations I was & still am so conscious of my want of Knowledge in Botany that I with good reason apprehended that it was not in my power to be of any use to you or D^r Linneas both of you consummate in that Science I cannot cease to admire the unwearied diligence & surprising accuracy of D^r Linneas in forming his Characters of such a vast number of Plants. But it is to you more immediatly that we in America are indebted & it was meerly in gratitude for the Benefit we in America have receiv'd from your labours that I offer'd any litle assistance that is in my power & which you have now laid me under the strongest obligations to perform. I must therefor previously excuse an imputation of negligence

which I am affray'd I shall hardly avoid in not complying with all that you may justly expect from me. For as I am in publick Employments I am frequently during the summer season obliged to attend them in the City where I have neither leisure nor opportunity to examine plants so it has happen'd to me these two last summers & it was accedental that in the summer before them I had so much leisure as to examine the plants growing near my house in the Country & to make the observation which I sent to you I shall next Summer indeavour to collect for you all the Specimen's which you desire & when I meet with any other plants which I think deserve your observation I shall send you Specimens of them together with my own observation of them. I thank you likewise for your Present of Linnæi Characteres his Fundamenta Botanica, his Oratio de Telluris habitabilis incremento, Celsi Oratio & your Flora Virginica Index supellectilis all which I have receive'd safe But those by M^r Cannan I have heard nothing of

When you write to D^r Linnaeus pray offer my humble Service to him & assure him that I shall be very proud of receiving his commands If in any thing I can serve him in this part of the World. Last summer I sent the Characters of the Actaea & Christophoriana Baccifera to my good friend M^r Collinson of London which I believe he will communicate to D^r Linnaeus It was from M^r Collinson this Spring that I learn'd with pleasure that you had receiv'd my letter for I began to suspect that it was either lost or not worth your notice

Since you have given me so much incouragement to propose my Doubts on the Linnean System I shall take the Liberty to make them as they occur without further ceremony trusting to the Indulgence which you have already so fully shown me, tho what I now presume to make goes to the General Distribution of his System into Hermaphroditi Monoecia Dioecia & Polygamia for if there be species of plants which are evidently of the same Genus and yet according to this system must be referr'd to different classes you must certainly allow it to be a

fault in the System What has given occasion to me for this doubt is what I wrote to you before that I had observ'd some particular plants of the Clematitis that carried only male flowers while others of the same species bore all hermaphrodite flowers There is no doubt of these plants being of the same species because they agreed in every thing in the leaf in the stem in that manner &c so that not the least distinction could be observ'd except that the flowers in one were all male in the other all Hermaphrodite neither did I observe any other plant of the same Genus that had female flowers. The next is what I likewise observ'd to you before of the Sagittaria that the Species which I observ'd was evidently distinguished into Male & Female plants You may assure yourself it is not an alisma according to Linnæus's character of this Genus nor no new Genus for it has but that in every thing It agrees with the Character of the Sagittaria excepting that the flowers are male & female in different plants of the same Species Now I shall mention a third plant a Specimen of which I sent you tho' without the flowers N° 198 & which you tell me is the *Myrica foliis oblongis alternatim sinnatis flor. Virg. p. 192.* According to Linnaeus's Character of the *Myrica* it is of the Dioecia Class I can assure you that this Species is of the Monoecia & carries Male & female Catkins on the same plant I shall send you next year some Specimens with the flowers and I cannot think that I have accidentally fallen upon all the exceptions of this kind that are to be found.

The wisdom of Nature has made a remarkable Distinction between Animals & Vegetables in the care taken for continuing their Species the accidents of life from the different propensities of the Male & females & the occasion that the Males generally make the smallest number that in the Animal Kingdom the Species may be well continued by the females being in greater number than the males but in Vegetables it is necessary that the Males be in greater number than the Females in order to make sure of their being impregnated & therefor I do not think

it against nature to have in the same species one plant with all male flowers & another with Hermaphrodite flowers.

One reason of D^r Linnaeus's his Establishing so many Classes (I suppose) is to avoid as much as possible any of them from being too much crowded this I think may be done by dividing as M^r Ray & others have done Plants into Tree & herbs This is a obvious distinction that all Mankind make & therefor I cannot doubt of its being a natural distinction & certainly an obvious natural Distinction is to be preferr'd to one more obscure As to my part if two plants one a Tree & the other an Herb should happen to agree in every part of the Fructification yet I could not persuade my self to think them of the same kind there is something so very Different in the whole formation & constitution between a tree & an herb. I knew that it is objected that there is not any certain Criterion to distinguish a tree from an Herb that any Criterion hitherto given by Botanists to distinguish a Tree from an Herb will agree to some Herbs but this objection I do not think sufficient for it may be only a proof of our want of Knowledge in giving the Proper Criterion not that the Distinction is not reall in which all nations have agreed & all Languages. If this objection should hold it may go further even to destroy all Distinction between Vegetables & Animals because I know no Criterion to distinguish animals from vegetables but what leaves room to doubt to which of them some Species belong witness the Polypus which has been the Subject of late observation Indeed my opinion is that the Natural Gradation from the lowest Class to the highest is by such small & imperceptible steps that it is very difficult to distinguish every the next step either upwards or downwards tho' at some Distince the Distinction be very remarkable For this reason any System in Botany would give me a strong prejudice in its favour where there appears such a Gradation from one Class to another & from one Genus to another through the several species that the step from one to the other becomes all-

most imperceptible When ever this System shall be discover'd I shall conclude it to be the natural System. So far you see I am from thinking that there is any weight in this argument against the Distinction of Plants into Trees & Herbs

Give me leave to make another objection to the Doctors System for it is not with any View to depreciate so worthy & great a performance but that I wish to have it as perfect as possible & I hope he will live to make it such as I know no man so capable of doing it It is this that the Distinction of the Syngenesia Class according to the male female hermaphrodite & neutral flowers is so very nice & requires in many cases such a clear sight & is apt to run the observers into Confusion which by comparing the first & 2^d Edition of his Characters the Dr himself has not been able to avoid in some instances add to this what I before observ'd of the Clematitis Sagittaria & Myrica we may have room to suspect that it does not truly & naturally distinguish the Genera but that the same Species are subject to Variations with respect to these But it is time for me to stop Ne Sutor ultra Crepidam

However I must again mention what I before hinted to you of the Gynandria Diandria that I still think that one Distinguishing part of this natural Class among other parts of their Character is that the Stamina & antheræ are affixed to the Nectarium in some shape or other This I have observ'd in all the Species that I have had an opportunity to examine which are indeed so very few that I can rely no more upon them than to recommend it to your examination for I could not after carefully reading Linneus's Description of this kind of flower discover any other stamina than what I take to be such Since I wrote my former I examined the Cypripedium there in the hollow of the Nectarium this Down or fine hairs appear & if I be not mistaken the antheræ are affixed not on their summit or top as usual but to the sides of the filament below their summits. Two Stamina seem not sufficient to me to impregnate the great quantity of seed

contain'd in the Capsula. Nature every where else seems to be more carefull to make sure work even by profusion. You who have the advantage of Botanical Gardens may soon be satisfied whether there be any real ground for my Conjecture

I have long wished to see D^r Linnaeus's *Philosophia Botanica* that is ever since I saw the name of it mentioned & was a little acquainted with his Works but when you wish in vain it is needless for me to add my wishes The reasons the D^r gives you for suppressing that book in my opinion should not prevail with a good man in depriving mankind of a general Benefite If I who understand so very little of Botany were permitted to advise I should propose the plants to be collected into their natural order or Classes without regard to any system after which I would make a System according to which same plants should be disposed according to the rules of that system with this view only to assist learners or the Ignorant to discover the proper name or place of each plant & in this I would have no regard to the Natural system but even divide & seperate the Species of the same Genus into different Classes if the rules of my System required it for I would have this System to be look't on as nothing else but as an Index to discover the plant one desires to find in its proper place & therefor I should prefer a System that serves best to this purpose tho' it should no way agree with the natural system By this means many disputes would be avoided among Botanists & the System would be more Beneficial to learners for thereby they would have a double Method of Discovering any unknown plant first from its natural conformity to some other known plant and Secondly from some remarkable part of its character by which they are in the artificial System led to it I cannot forbear to wish that you would try this Method in a New Edition of your *American Plants* for my own sake & other unskillful Philo-Botanists in America. And this Leads me to his *oratio de telluris habitabilis Incrementa* I doubt of the truth of his observation in his preface on the *Vermiculi*

in Genitura that they have no motion in themselves I have observ'd it otherwise what I mean is that tho I doubt not that it was really so in the case he observ'd yet I doubt of its being allwise so

The benefit of oyl in the cure of the Bite of the Rattle Snake has been confirmed in several instances in this Country & even that Hogs lard is effectual & of consequence it is probable that all oyl things are. I has been long observ'd in this Country that hogs were never hurt by the Rattle Snake or by any Viper tho all our other cattle at sometime or other have been this I attribute to the natural defence they have by their fat through which the teeth of the Viper cannot penetrate without giving the remedy at the same time it injects the poison You know how dangerous it is to trust to experiments unless they be perform'd with all requisite precaution but I can assure that I would rather trust to oyl or hogs lard than to the famous Polygala or Rattle snake root or to any other Medecine that I have heard of because the beneficial use of this comes better confirmed to me than that of the Rattle Snake root or any other we chiefly trust to the warm external application

As you seem to be pleas'd with my communicating the use of any plants discover'd in this Country I shall tell you what I learn'd of the use of the Hamamelis from a Minister of the Church of England who officiats among the Mohawk Indians He saw an allmost total blindness occasioned by a blow cur'd by receiving the Warm Steam of a Decortion of the Bark of this Shrub through a Funnel upon the place this was don by direction of a Mohawk Indian after other means had for a considerable time prov'd ineffectual. I have since experienced the benefit of it used in the same manner in an Inflammation of the eye from a blow Dr Linneus is in the right in observing that I had mistaken the Gemma of this shrub for the Involucrum in the Description I gave of it

The Indians likewise cure all sorts of wounds without digestion by the Inner bark of the Pinus N° 192 of the collection I sent you They soak it so long in Water as

to make it soft & then apply it If I be not misinform'd it is effectual even in Gun shot wounds The Wound keeps of a fresh & ruddy colour till it unites without digesting

I have not as yet been able to see the fruit of N° 131 but I cannot doubt of its belonging to the Class of the Tetradynamia for besides its agreeing in all its parts of the Flower with the Characters of that Class it agrees likewise in Test having nearly the same with that of the Nasturtium The Mohawk Indians told me that when they were quite faint with travel & fasting if they can come at the roots of this plant to eat they are refreshed & their spirits restored wonderfully. add to the Description I gave what follows. *Radix longa teres repens prominentis plurimis angulosis* I hardly doubt that the *Lysimachia Galericulata Claytoni* has four Stamina otherwise I think I had not fail'd to take notice of it I shall examine it again next summer

What I wrote to you of the Species of the *Zea semine nudo* I believe is entirely a mistake for having sown some of these seeds the plants which came from them produced seeds cover'd with a hard Skin as the other sorts are I suspect some artifice was used to deceive me Whatever Tournefort may say I cannot doubt of there being distinct Species of the Maiz notwithstanding that they cannot be distinguished either from the leaf or flower but we that are well acquainted with the seed can distinguish the species tho it be very difficult to convey that distinction by words only to others. Sow the several species in the same soil & at the same time they will come to ripeness at very different seasons in the year & this property they never change unless when sown together that they bastardise The planters who live in the northern colonies are obliged to be careful in observing this distinction of species otherwise they would often loose their whole crops. I can hardly doubt that the same nicety of Distinction of species may be necessary in some other Genera This brings to my Memory a thought which I have intertain'd viz that we have in America

very few if any Species of plants or animals entirely the same with those in Europe except such as have been brought from thence, tho some Species are so nearly alike that it is difficult to describe the Difference by words tho it be manifest to a curious observer.

I shall be obliged to you if you'll please to inform me of any new valuable books in Medecine published with you. I have not the good fortune to have seen any thing in the Materia Medica that entirely pleases me

You cannot expect much new in Literature from this part of the world I send with this a curious & new Invention for warming a room with a small fire more effectually than can be done by a large fire in the common method & is free of the inconveniencies which attend the Dutch & German Stoves; because by this contrivance there is a continual supply of fresh warm air. It may be particularly usefull to you & D^r Linneus, by preserving your health while it keeps you warm at you studies It is the Invention of M^r Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia the Printer of it, a very Ingenious man. Experience confirms the benefit of it.

I send likewise some few observations of plants made since I sent my former & few seeds of the Manarda & Helxine Volubilis but as these were taken from the Witherd Stalks after the winter was begun may not be come to perfection but since I cannot otherwise send them till next fall you may if you please take the chance of these

Descriptions to be sent to Gronovius

N^o 2 Veronica foliis quaternis quenisve

198 Myrica Sweat fern

199 Polygala

I design to give our friend M^r Collinson of London the trouble of conveying this to you because we have not any ship at this time design'd from this to Holland He does me commonly the pleasure of writing to me twice in the

Year at the Seasons our Ships commonly leave London viz In the end of February & beginning of September. When any ships from Amsterdam either go to New York or to Philadelphia if your friends at Amsterdam please to direct your letters for me by the New York Ships to the Care of Mr Richard Nicholls Post Master in New York or by the Philadelphia ships to the care of Mr Benjⁿ Franklin Post Master in Philadelphia they will come safe to my hands.

Cadwallader Colden to Benjamin Franklin

[Copy]

Dec^r 1744

The season of the year advancing in which our Correspondence from this place with New York becomes more uncertain & my eldest son going now to New York where he proposes to stay 8 or 10 days I hope you will excuse my interrupting you in your Business which I know allows you little time for trifles or amusements. In your last you gave me hopes that you would soon be able to inform me of what sentiment Mr Logan intertains of the Introduction to Fluxions which was submitted to his perusal By my last I transmitted to you some thoughts of the Different Species of Matter. As these thoughts are entirely new & out of the common road of thinking I have reason not only to be apprehensive that others may not easily receive the Conceptions but that I may have imposed on my self & it is for this reason that I have submitted them to Mr Logan & your Examination. I have allready shown it to Mr Alexander & some steps I have made in applying these thoughts to the explanation of some phenomina in which Philosophers have hitherto not been able to give Satisfaction. He has taken much more pains in the Examination than could have been expected in one so deeply engaged in Business & however pleasing his Sentiments may be to me I have reason to suspect that he may be biassed by favour to a very long &

intimate acquaintance. You may assure your self that I think & I hope M^r Logan will believe me in good earnest when I say that there cannot be a stronger & surer mark of Friendship than showing to me the mistakes I may have fallen into as it may prevent my exposing my weakness & Ignorance to others Men often impose sophisms upon themselves which they cannot detect without the assistance of others If the general reasonings be found right I flatter my self you will take more pleasure in examining the application of them to particular phenomena As the Winter is the only time that I have leisure to apply my self to speculations I should be glad to know your Sentiments & M^r Logans As soon as may be either to prevent my throwing away time uselessly or to encourage me to go on in the pursuit of a study which requires much time & leisure more than I can hope for in my life. I know none besides M^r Logan M^r Alexander & your self in this part of the world to whos judgement I can refer any thing of this kind.

I long likewise to know what progress you make in forming your Society. If it meet with obstruction from the want of proper encouragement or otherwise I would have you attempt some other Method of proceeding in your Design for I shall be very sorry to have it entirely dropt. May you not as Printer propose to Print at certain times a Collection of such pieces on the subject of your former proposals which any shall think proper to send you & by way of Specimen to print such papers as your friends may have communicated to you on your former proposal. For this purpose you may desire a Subscription by all persons indifferently for your Incouragement. I do not propose that every thing be printed that shall be sent You may communicate them to the best judges with you of the several subjects on which these papers shall happen to be wrote where you are not willing entirely to trust to your own Judgement & if they be found not fit for the press you may return them with remarks or make some excuse for not publishing them. This I expect will in time produce a Society as proposed

by giving men of Learning or Genius some knowledge of one another & will avoid some difficulties that allwise attend the forming of Societies in their Beginning Three hundred copies may be sufficient at first till it be discover'd what incouragement the undertaking meets with & such a number I cannot doubt will sell. I shall only add that as men naturally have as great a fondness for the Productions of their Mind as for those of their bodies however ill favour'd they be & bear with as much uneasiness to be deprived of the honour of such Productions as to have another assume to be the father of their Children you must be careful to acknowledge the receipt of every paper so as that the author may think himself secure from pyratrical attempts of others

To Mr John Bartram at the same time.

[Copy]

[Dec^r 1744]

S^r

I was so much longer at New York than I expected that I have been much longer deprived of the pleasure of continueing my Correspondence with you than I thought would happen for my private affairs since my return home have necessarily employ'd my thoughts. In the first place I must thank you for the Civilities I receiv'd while I was at Philadelphia I am very sensible of them And next I must excuse my not procuring the seed of the Arbor Vitæ as you desired the cones were all open before I return'd & the seed fallen But I shall have the greatest pleasure if I can be a means of persuading you to make your knowledge more publick & of consequence more usefull & I perswade my self it will not be difficult for me to perswade you to it for the greatest pleasure a good man can have is in being usefull to the community & in what I am about to propose I likewise hope that you'll find a private advantage in it. It is to communicate your knowlege of our American plants to the publick This I

believe may be done with most advantage to your self by publishing it by Subscription in monthly papers of about one shilling Value & to take Gronovius's Flora Virginica for the Foundation of your work & method. It will be necessary for you to have at least six months papers ready before you begin to publish that the work may be continued with sufficient care & without Interruption. I make no doubt you'll find severall forward to incourage & assist you where it may be necessary especially in such parts where you may be under difficulties by your not having had in your youth the advantages of Learning. I will very cheerfully contribute whatever shall be in my power & give you my thoughts as to the Method of prosecuting your design after I shall know that you are resolved to undertake it

To Alderman Johnson at y^e same time.

[Copy]

[Dec^r 1744]

S^r

You may remember that while I was last at New York you gave me hopes that you would inform me of what had been don by the Magistrates to remove the Nusances & draining the stagnating Waters & other Methods taken by them in order to keep the City clean & healthy And likewise to give me some account of the State of health of the City so far as it may be reasonably thought to be the consequence of their care but I suppose more urgent Business prevented you. I now take the Liberty to put you in mind of what you promised me & when I tell you for what purpose I do it I believe you will not be displeased that I press you to it. If it be found from Experience that the Care of the Magistrats has produced in any measure the good effects that were proposed it will in the first place be of means to encourage them to continue their care & to carry it further where either the want of time to do all that was requisite or

other obstructions prevented them. & 2^{dly} it will induce the people more cheerfully to submit to their orders and regulations even in cases where their private profit or ease may seem to suffer 3^{dly} It will be of use to this City & to other places hereafter when they shall fall under the misfortune of such like Epidemical Distempers in taking the proper Methods to remove them & to prevent them & lastly that such of the Magistrats of New York who have distinguished themselves in so beneficial & benevolent an undertaking may receive a publick & honourable Testimony of their care & Vigilance in performing the Duty of good Magistrats as may be due to their merit. While we were engaged in party disputes many pretended to a great concern for the publick now when the publick benefite may be pursued without the inconvenencies which necessarily attend party Disputes it seems to be a matter of no concern & this gives room to think that the publick Benefite was not really the Motive to those who formerly made so great a bustle about it.

Cadwallader Colden to Dr. Joh. Fred Gronovius
[Copy]

COLDINGHAM in NEW YORK 1745

Dear S^r

I answer'd yours of the 3^d of April 1744 (which is the only one I have receiv'd from you) near twelve months since I directed to the care of our friend M^r Collinson of London which he tells me he had carefully transmitted to you This is design'd to be sent likewise to his care since he is pleas'd with having this trouble put upon him. I am so little acquainted with the Merchants in this place who trade directly to holland that the ships are commonly gon before I hear any thing of their going besides most of these Merchants & Masters of Vessels are very careless of any thing of which they have no prospect of any Profit. With this I send the Characters of some more plants

which I observ'd this year & some corrections or additions to what I had before observed some dry'd specimens likewise & some seeds. Upon the same paper I have presumed with that freedom which I think is allow'd in all philosophical enquiries to mention some further difficulties which arise to me in the Linnean System & tho' you may perhaps easily solve them by showing my ignorance in Botany as a Science yet as probably the same difficulties may occur to others it may be of some use by giving you an opportunity of clearing up this matter to [torn] others less versant in that science

It is no thing new & extraordinary in Literature from this part of the world is to be expected but as we are improving this Wilderness & have in some measure in some places given it the appearance of the Cultivated grounds in Europe so we make some small attempts for improvement in Learning And as you may be desirous of discovering our taste in the Medical Art I send you two small Essays lately published the one here in New York, the other at Philadelphia. The distemper call'd the Dry Gripes, Endemial to the West Indies is a most stubborn distemper & has often baffled the attempts of almost all the Skillfull Physiceans who have undertaken the cure of it till a Method of cure was discover'd by an old woman which was afterwards kept as a secret for about 50 years among 2 or 3 practitioners till lately that it became more generally known at Philadelphia The old woman used only crude Rhenish Tartar given in small quantities every two hours The Doctor to whom she communicated her Method of practise substituted Cremor Tartari without any other addition & so did the others till lately without using any opiats or any purgatives in the treatise I now send you This account I had from one who has had the secret about twenty years & tells me that he has used it with success in above 300 patients. He is absolutely against useing any stimulating purgatives in the beginning for he says if the Cremor Tartari work too soon as it will in some constitutions so as to give Watery Stools before the hard excrements pass it never produces

any good effect It must work at first rather as an alterant before it evacuat with success. The first appearance of its good effects is by making great quantity of Wind pass downwards which is succeeded by hard excrements in a globular shape & then Clement purgatives may safely be used like Tartar & the use of it is still to be continued as an alterant for some time or he has used successfully in place of it Floris sulphuris It would be of use to have a history of the Discovery of any method of cure or of specifick Medecines perhaps it would then be found that more has been often owing to chance than to art especially in the Discovery of Specific Medecines.

The other paper was occasion'd by Tar Water's becoming the subject of common conversation here in America as well as in England & the Practitioners commonly speaking of it with contempt By many experiments it has been found beneficial in Scorbutic & hysteric cases & one of my acquaintance is in hopes of being cured of the Gout by it he has recover'd a better state of health than he had in many years before but it requires more time than he has as yet had to be assur'd of the cure of his Gout. We have some instances of the cure of the Yaws by it after the cure could not be effected by Mercury & the common methods in the French Pox & of one in this distemper who was given over as incurable by the physicians. You know that Dr Sydenham thinks the Yaws to be the same distemper with the Lues Venerea & I believe they are generally taken to be the same in Europe but they are of very different Originals the one being a Native of Africa & the other of America & make two distinct species of diseases tho' in many symtems they agree & both be contracted by infection But it is time for me to give over I am affray'd that I may tire your patience I am

To Dr GRONOVIVS of Leyden

From James Alexander

Copy of Sissons Letter about
price of Sectors for observing
Stars in or near the Zenith to
two Seconds

I have Sent you a book wherein is an Exact draught & Description of the 9 foot Sector that M^r Graham made for the French Gentlemen that went into the North to measure a Degree of the Meridian which I thought might be better than what I could send you, which book may be of Service to you the price of one of 9 foot Radius in the Same Manner as in the book would be £100 I made one of the Sectors of 5 foot Radius in the Same manner as in the book for M^r Campbell which he carried to Jamaica which comes to £60—I likewise have made one of 12 foot without the triangular frame to fix in a perpendicular Chimney or to the Side of a wall for M^r Celsius professor at Upsal in Swedeland which Comes to £ 100—one of 9 feet to fix to the Side of a wall will be about £ 80 One of 6 feet radius to fix to the Side of a wall will be about £ 50
London Aug^t 31 1744

NEW YORK janry 13th 1744/5

D^r Sir

I had yours of the 4th by M^r Harrison with 4 Moiders & 2 guineas—I am of your opinion we must rest Satisfied with M^r Sissons demand I shall Send up one of the Instruments by the first Sloop in the Spring as you Desire finding in the Philosophical transactions that the instrument by which M^r Bradley discovered the aberration of the fixed Starrs was, a Small arc of a Circle graduated about a Degree only on Each Side of the Zenith, in your Last I requested Sisson to Describe the instrument & the price thereof, a Coppy of his answer I send you before & if I can get the bearer of this to bring you the book he

mentions I will Send you that also, which with a great deal of pleasure I have perused

In another Letter Sisson tells me that M^r Graham recommends the Observing the Latitude by the Stars near our Zenith as much better than by the Sun, for 3 reasons 1 heat of Sun may alter shape 2 Limit of Sun can't be So Exactly observed as a Starr 3 refraction is different at different times in the Same place Says M^r Graham has promised to procure from the Earle of Maclesfield & D^r Bradley the altitude of Several Stars near our Zenith observed by them with the Largest & most Exact quadrants & also their observations at Different times of the year caused by the Motion of the Earth haveing a Sensible velocity Compared with the motion of Light

I shall be obliged to you for your thoughts on the tarr water

I hope the plan you have found may be the best kind of it which cures the Stone which will be one of the most usefull discoveries to Mankind

Since I had yours Peter Delancey was with me with a Draught of award for M^r Murray concerning the £ 100 he had paid for the mills Since his fathers decease which it Seems has been referred to Mr Murray & he is of opinion that the father would have paid it & Consequently his Estate & that therefore Peter ought to be reimbursed Peter askt me also what Should be done on the General affair, I told him I thought it best to refer it also to M^r Murray but if they could not be brought to that then to Comply with what the Chief justice proposed viz to Leave it to the Chancellor of England for as to a Real Suit I could by no means advise it, while there was a possibility any way of an amicable Determination, that so far as advice, I should be ready to Serve him as far as in my power

As to your money at Philadelphia I think the best way would be for Mr Armit to get it changed into jersey money & Send it by the post to Mr Nichols who for six weeks after the 25th of March will probably get 2/ or 2/6 pr^{tt} advance on the proclamⁿ I have often applica-

tion to me for borrowing money So its very probable he may Soon find persons to borrow it

Capt Rutherford has favoured me with the peruseal of Sundry pamphlets which by no means show our publick affairs to be in a better Condition than they appear by the news papers

We Lately got a Coppy here of the bill brought into the house of Commons last Session of parliament, to prevent all paper bills in the plantations to be issued hereafter from being tenders, & to our great Surprize found two clauses foisted in at the End of it, makeing the instructions of the King or of any by his authority Obligatory on Gov^{rs} Councils & assemblys in the plantations & all Laws orders &c by them to the Contrary to be void—which if past would Subject the plantations to the Kings absolute will

never was there so nearly an union in any place as there was in this agt these clauses, a meeting was had of the principal inhabitants without Distinction of parties it was agreed to remitt £ 150 Sterling to Mess^{rs} Bakers to Employ an agent & Council & to join with the Gent of West India Islands & Virginia in opposition to those clauses, before house of Commons & house of Lords, & Each agreed to write to their Correspondents in London to Countenance this application to the utmost of their power, the money was immediately raised & remitted for that purpose by Stephen Delancey & Co: with orders if more be necessary to advance it—with orders also to promote the passing of the bill So far as Concerned paper money which was Excellently well drawn & proper to prevent in time the mischiefs ariseing by paper money being a tender Leaveing it Still in the power of the Governments to issue Securitys for money on an Exigency takeing care of good funds & to pay the interest to those who will please to accept them—I am

Yours

JA. ALEXANDER

From James Alexander

NEWYORK Febyry 10th 1744/5

D^r Sir

I had yours of the 19th of Jan^{ry}. I am of your opinion that a quadrant will give more general satisfaction & therefore, a Quadrant of 30 inches radius price £ 42 Sterling is what I chose & Expect to have by the return of the ships

I read your reflections on Tar water twice over with a great deal of pleasure and care & found only a few Literal mistakes of the transcriber which I corrected & then Sent for Parker the printer who agreed to print it according to your Directions & to print a quire of each for your use in the manner you Desire paying 2/pr quire for the paper, but Said he could not begin it for three weeks, there being news by the Boston & Philadelphia Ships which would fill his papers for that time.

I asked Parker what he would have pr sheet for 100 coppies of the piece yow propose further to print in the Same Letter as his news paper he answered 40/ pr sheet, which I think is reasonable enough considering that one sheet in that Letter will Contain more than two sheets of the Letter in which the Common printing is which is 25/ pr sheet

David Ogden of Newark haveing found in one of the Magazines from London an account of tar water, and he having been much afflicted with the Rheumatism for two years, which had Setled in his Knees and Swelled them, he resolved to trye the tar water at once, and in one month he was restored to perfect health, the Swelling in his knees, the flying pains in his body & Legs and arms entirely removed his Languid & Sickly pale colour which he has had these two years yeilded to a fresh healthy colour—he came to town this week & not knowing any thing of this medicine taken by him, I accosted him at once that I was glad to See him Look So well, and needed not to ask how he did, upon this he immediately

told me whats before, and further that the fame of his being So Soon & So well cured of So long an indisposition had Spread thro all Newark, & So far as Amboy where people were takeing Tar Water for all Distempers, & it cures but everything,—he told me that a Daughter of Stephen Courtlands of about 30 years of age who has not had an hours health for a dozen years past being plagued with Tooth ack histericks & many other indispositions, told him the week before that the tarr water had cured her tooth ake & all her ailments & that she found her Self then as brisk and lively as at fifteen—it has cured Severall of histericks, cholicks &c If all this be true it bids fair to be the universal medicine David Ogden told me that for the first fourtnight the Tar water purged him downwards, which I dont find that the Bishop remarks any such Effect

NEWYORK Feby 28th 1744/5

S^r Sir

Whats before was wrote at its date but no opportunity has Since offered to Send it—Mr Kennedy & Mr. Lodge tell me there's now an opportunity which they Embrace to write to yow, in order to get a Deed from Mrs. Milsman upon which the title to the house which M^r Kennedy has bargained for does absolutely Depend, as M^{rs} Milsman herself had not the Estate in her as I was told at their Last Sending to yow on this account but when they brought me the title to view I found She had only a bare authority to Sell for her former husbands will & that was Limited too to the time of her being his widow—So that that deed none wrote for must Either be had or proved in Chancery that Such deed Existed, its Suspected that John Bayard has got it into his hands by the opportunity he has of viewing his mothers papers & if he has, and has Destroyed it, both he & his mother must Swear thro Stitch in Chancery to make it of any benefite to them I am

D^r Sir

Your most humble Servant

[Indorsed]

To
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
att Coldenham

JA. ALEXANDER

From Peter Collinson

I can only now acquaint my Dear Friend—That his
 Secon'd part of his principle of action is come Safe on the
 6th Instant & immediately Sent to Doc^r Bevis—from
 whom I can gett no answer to the first.

I am in hast Thine

P COLLINSON

Feby^r 21

I have Gott a fine Sett of
 Tournfort & . . .
 plant Shall Send next Month
 in M^r Alexander's trunk

[Indorsed]

To
 CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
 at
 Coldenham
 New York.

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD Feb. 25 1745

[torn] Opportunity by the Rev^d M^r Watkins [torn]
 atulate your people upon his having [torn] a Mission
 for them & his safe return to them, which I hope may be
 of great Advantage to your Country.—I perceive by him
 that what we wrote in behalf of the 500 acres of land is
 likely to obtain the desired Effect

On this Occasion I give you may Hearty thanks for
 your Kind Letter, & the Singular Favour you have done
 me in Sending that very ingenious performance on Flux-
 ions, which I confess has set them in a more Advan-
 tageous Light to me than any thing I had before Seen.—
 Indeed I have as yet given it but a very hasty perusal, be-
 cause I was minded as Soon as I could to Send it to M^r
 prince whose Judgm^t In Such subjects I value much
 beyond my own: but he is at the Distance of 20 miles
 teaching a Country School which he complains is Such an

Interruption to his Time & thoughts that he must beg a little forbearance before he can give it that Attention it deserves, especially with relation to the Dispute between you & the Bp.—In the mean time he [torn] me to give you his thanks for the Kind Disposition you express of being useful to him in whatever may be in your power. It would, I believe, be of very good use to the promoting of learning in your Government if He could get a Classical & Mathematical School Some where in it.—This was attempted by M^r Clowey at Jamaica but it is a Surprising Malice wherewith his Enemies of Harvard College persecute him, for they or Somebody influenced by them have not only endeavored to blast his Reputation in y^r Government but even with the Society in England, as appears by a Letter I had now from the Secretary.

As to your Inquiry about poke root &c. It was not the juice of the root but the Leaves that was inspissated in the Sun that did the Cure. I have Sent to an ingenious Physician, at N Haven, D^r Hubbard who has promised to give me the best light he can get about it, but he is yet dubious, there being Some danger of its breaking out again—When I have got his full Intelligence on this Subject, & M^r prince & I have had opportunity to lay our Heads together upon the Business of Fluxions you shall hear from me again Mean time I remain

S^r

your most obliged
& very humble Serv^t

SA. JOHNSON

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

at

Coldenham.

From John Rutherford

S^r

[Undated]

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter at New York where I went to attend the Council a while this

Spring in hopes of promoteing Some vigorous resolutions for the defence of our own frontiers & regarding our interest with the Six Nations which has been dwindleing for so many years & Seems now quite lost, but my hopes were vain & I found myself reckoned as odd & singular at New York for insisting upon a proper defence for Albany, as I was last Fall at Albany when I alone insisted upon assisting New England with our Indians; Some of whom were willing to fight for us then who are alike unwilling with the rest now fearing the French & despiseing us. I left New York yesterday where The Torrington Man of War of 40 Guns Commanded by Capt Hardy arrived on thursday night, he is to Cruize towards Virginia for a fortnight & than Convoy the three Companys of Fullers Regiment at New York from thence to Louisbourg which place you'l be surprised to hear must certainly have fallen into french hands, had they arrived there with any force either from Canada or Eurpoe, for when the Transports arrived from Virginia they had not three hundred Men left in the Garrison, the Sickness there must have been worse than most plagues we've heard of altho 'tis all attributed to the Men's feeding allwayes on Salt provisions & want of Cloathing. I won't pretend to write you any Albany news untill I arrive there, whats past I suppose you've heard already, nor indeed has any thing happened but what I dare Say you as well as I expected, it being plainly the Interest of Canada to reduce our Setlements & gain our Indians & consequently they will bend most of their force against Albany it being there we interfere most with them, but as to Lands & trade; Our allowing all our Indians to goe to Canada to treat with A French Governour last Summer, without useing all means & artifices in owr power to hinder them was an irreparable fault, tho none in me since I wrote again & again to the Governour at the time & in vain press'd The Commissioners to exert themselves with whom I have done no business Since, but to allow them to goe to Canada now as the Sachems are mostly designing & without so much as Sending persons of inter-

est amongst them to endeavour at least to stop them seems to me the Strongest instance of Infatuation I've ever met with, for I don't see why we mayn't expect they may return with the hatchet in their hands against us. I have left my Wife & Children at New York untill I see a litle how things goes, & I propose some time this Summer to meet her at Your house & have the pleasure of passing a few days with you agreeably, by that time M^r Parker will have finish'd printing your treatise or Essay & if we can't entertain ourselves with the particular affairs of the World here, we allways can with the General Economy of it. I Saw M^r Peter Delancy a day or two befor I left New York when he told me, that part of your family now with him were all well I hope to hear the same of Mrs. Colden & the rest of Your Young Family from you soon, pray remember my respects to them all, being with all regard & sincerity

Yours most obed^t &c.&c

JOHN RUTHERFURD

Hudson's River
Saturday 10 oclock

From James Alexander

NEW YORK March 18

1744/5

D^r Sir

I have yours of Febry 23^d—about Ten days agoe I began to use Tar water as a preventive for the Gout & Gravell, the first time I took it in the morning & it made me qualmish all day I took it again going to bed, & Slept well & found no Such Effect in the morning wherfore I Resolved to take it only before going to bed, & have Continued it ever Since—Tho' I expected no visible & speedy good effect of it as intended only as a preventive of what was not then upon me, the Gout & Gravell yet it Soon had an unexpected Effect, & that Contrary to what it had

upon Mr Ogden to witt For two years past & more I had almost Continually a Looseness, with wind in the Stomack & Gutts which often Swelled me up, and mostly if I eat any roots or Greens, which had obliged me to disuse them, much against my inclination, to my surprize after three or four days useing the tarr water, I found that my Looseness was gone, was not troubl'd with wind as before I got a keen appetite Such as I remember not to have had these twenty years, and Do venture upon roots & Greens again without finding the Like Consequences from them as before—as it has had this unexpected effect I intend to Continue it in hopes it may have the effect I intended

Tho Parker prints your piece on tar water differently from what you proposed, yet he has promised to form the number of Coppies you proposed in the manner you mentioned in your Letter.

Inclosed is the key of the Box of the Circumferentor, which tomorrow I intend to Send to Mr Nuals with this to go by the first opportunity

I shall be very glad to See what you have done on the animal Economy, & on the Theory of Gravitation—I am afraid I shall not have the happyness of Seeing Mr^s Colden because I intend to go for Jersey the End of this week where I Shall be detained near a month at our Supream Court & Council of proprietors

I shall observe what you desire as to Mr Browns Lott N^o 2

I hear that writs are out in jersey for chuseing a new assembly to meet at Amboy the End of this month, If it Should then Sitt for business I am afraid I shall be Longer Detained there

The Boston Expedition against Cape Breton Seems a Bold undertakeing I heartyly wish it may Succeed, but I am afraid of it for the want of warriors & Engineers which I Look upon to be as much an art as any manual Occupation, Their Generallissimo I hear is a new light man that never Saw a Shot fired in anger—the being an Enthusiast I take it to be no ill property in a warrior, but

the Defect of Experience I Doubt if that good property will Supply—Its said they have three good Engineers but assured not one of them was ever at a Siege. I Doubt much if Theory will Supply that Defect—the number of men proposed for the Expedition viz 7 or 8000 Seems fully Sufficient were the half of them but veterans. If it Succeeds it will be the most glorious thing that has been done this warr, & the most usefull if the Conquest can be kept for its the only place of Rendezvous that the french have to annoy the Northern plantations with from the Sea I am

D^r Sir

Your most humble Serv^t

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

Coldingham

Wt a box

From Peter Collinson

LONDⁿ March 30th 1745

My Dear Friend

It gives Mee Concern that I am Deprived the pleasure of yrs by the Unfortunate Loss of Cap^t Bryant, I commend your prudence in Directing your Seeds for the Paris Garden the proffesors are Mess^{rs} Jussieu—without that precaution a hundred to one but that they had been thrown into the Sea—but if you had Improved that precaution & Divided the Seeds into Two [℥]cells & Sent by Two ships, then in all probability I should have had the Delight of shareing in the pains that you had taken to oblige Your Friends—whilst these perilous Times Last I recommend it to you for the future

As this may I think very Justly be Stiled an age of Wonders, It may not [℥]haps be Disagreeable to Just hint them to you

the Surpriseing Phenomena of the Polypus Entertain'd the Curious for a year or Two past but Now the

Vertuosi of Europe are taken up In Electrical Experiments, and what can be more Astonishing than that the Base rubbing of a Glass Tube Should Investigate a Person with Electric Fire He is not Touched by the Tube but the Subtile Effluvia that Flies from it pervades Every pore and renders him what Wee call Electrified for then Lett him touch Spirits of Wine & the Spark of fire that flies from his finger on the touch will Sett the Spirits In flame This is a Common Experiment, but I have Seen oyle of Sevil-oriangs—& Camphire [Camphor] Sett on fire & Gun powder mixt with oyl of Lemmons will take Fire—but what would you say to see Fire come out of a Piece of thick Ice & Sett the Spirits In flame or Electrical Fire drawn through Water & forme the Same—these are some few of a great Number of Surprising things that are formed by the Electrical power which you will find Difficult to Comprehend but are all facts

Electricity Seems to furnish an Inexhaustable fund for Enquirey, & Sure & Certain Phenomenas so Various and So wonderfull that can only arise from Causes very General & Extensive and Such as must have been designed by the Almighty Author of Nature for the production of very great Effects & Such as are of very Great Moment no Doubt to the System of the Universe—which by Degrees may lead to Higher Truths, in particular to Discover the Nature of that Subtile Elastic & Etherial Medium, which S^r Isaac Newton Queries on, at the End of His opticks—Had these Discoveries happened in that Great Mans Time, His Illuminated Mind would have apply'd them to wonderfull purposes—

The Walcans have discover'd Some very unaccountable properties in unealed or untempered Glass, you must know that Glass Immediately after it is Blown in what Fashion you please and Exposed to the air to Cool, is called unnealed, whereas all the Glass in use is by Degrees Harden'd or Temperd but take a Cruitt of this un-eal'd Glass that is made of the Size of an Oyle or Vinegar Cruitt but thicker and Stronger to Appearance, Take a Wooden Mallet and beat it, on its Bottome as hard as

one could drive a Nail & it will not break,—Drop a musket Bullet or an Ivory ball into It,—it has the Same effect; but take a Shiver or small piece of Flint that weights no more than three Grains & Drop it into the Cruet as gently as you Can & in a Moment it flies into a Thousand peices This I saw tryed over & over & it never Fails nay I Saw a Grain & half of flint Drop'd into a Cruet & it did not Instantly break—but laying it aside & in about 2 or 3 Minutes it flew all to peices—these are Notorious Facts—No one pretends to offer any account for them but had they been Shown in the Dark Ages of the 7th & 8th Century nothing could have saved the operator from the flames the Devil or his Imps must have been concern'd in Both operations to produce Such Surprising Effects beyond Human Comprehension

But I verily think the next wonderfull operation could not in the Dearest times be apply'd to such a Satanical power

Wee have Large Sea Crabs that Weigh 3 & 4 to 7 or 8 pound—this Creature by a Wonderful faculty has a power in it self voluntarily to Crack & Break of his Great & Small Leggs, notwithstanding his flesh is cover'd with so hard a Shell, it breaks readily & the Fleshy Muscles & Ligaments Divide and the Limb Drops of, I have seen in a few minutes Two Large Crabbs Leggless—I fancy you may try the Experiment, which is no more then Laying a Crab on its back then take a pair of Iron Pincers, and break the Extremities of its Leggs & bruise its Flesh, that it may feel pain and if it is of the Same Nature with ours it will presently cast of its Legg off in the Middle of the Second Joynt from its Body—as It is to Long & I have not Leisure to assigne the cause the fact is Certain you will now Dismiss Mee & will Candor Excuse the Inaccuracy of these hints, Such as they are you may thank the Leisure of Easter Day Evening for them

I am with much Respect

Y^r affectionate fr^d

P COLLINSON

No Doubt but our Worthy Fr^d M^r Alexander will show you the plan of the Moons New Motion——

Pray did you ever make any observations on the oppossam I shall be obliged to you for them

From John Rutherford

Dear Sir

I had the favour of A letter from you returned me from Albany again to New York where I had the pleasure of Seeing M^{rs} Colden. My Wife was much baulked in not being able to enjoy more the pleasure of Mrs. Colden's Company there, haveing been so Constantly plagued with Meagrum Headacks, which she has allways been subject to less or more, that 'twas very seldom she could be in Company at all either at home or abroad dureing Mrs. Colden's stay there. I tired not a litle at New York being allways in A Hurry yet nothing done especially in The Assembly where they had a great deal of Bustle yet in the end seems resolved to leave all affairs as they found them showing no less indifference about provideing for their own defence than in assisting their Neibours; Nay they wont so much as Consult with, or act in Concert with The other Provinces refuseing I find to empower His Excellency to name Commissioners for that purpose. We have four Forts here Garrisoned by these two Companys besides Oswego & neither powder or any other Ammunition or a days provisions in one of them or in any repair; This & Salitoga [sic] remaining still but half finished tho if they were would they be good for much. I can't imagine what hinders The French from takeing Oswego & raiseing Contributions at Albany they must be in great Straits for provisions or Something we have not yet learned. The Patron is now looked upon as certainly dying, Dominie Schuyler hasbrought up Doctor M^cGra to attend him. I long much to See you, Pray come up as soon as you can, I have A Bed ready for you, 'Tis impos-

sible for me at present to pay my respects to you at Coldingham, not haveing One Lieutennant here belonging to my Company being each at an Out Garrison & only Old Capt Blood belonging to The Governours who is often sick, & you know we are but four days March from Crownpoint. My Wife begs to Join me in our best respects to You Mrs. Colden & all Your Good Family, If we can't have possibly the Happyness to see Mrs. Colden herself here I beg you'd bring One of The Young Ladys with you & am

Sir

Yours most obed^t humble Servant

JOHN RUTHERFURD

ALBANY 22^d Aprile 1745

From Peter Collinson

LOND Aprill 2d 1745

My Dear Fr^d

I hope the Trunk of Goods out 181: 6: 6 Ship^d on Board Cap^t Corne are Come Safe to hand & prove Agreeable Since that both Silk & Wollen Goods are Considerably Advanced——

I am now so prodegiouly Hurried I can add no More but that I am

Your affectionate Fr^d

P COLLINSON

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

New York

☞Capt. Bryant

From Peter Collinson

LOND Aprile 26: 1745

My Dear Fr^d

I did not Expect that I should have found any Leisure to answer y^r kind Letter of the 8th Decem Last but I will

find time to thank you for the perusal of y^r papers to D^r Gronovius w^{ch} I read over & over & was much pleased with your Reasons & Objections are of Such Weight as must Effect the Linnean System & prevent its being universally Received—Tournfort & Ray in my Judgmen^t are much perferrable—take this in general I wish I could be more Particular I really wonder att y^r proficiency in so Short a Time I transmitted those papers by a safe hand to Doc^r Gronovius who writes directed to J. Bertram by (Hargrave) a many Curious Remarks on the things Sent by J. Bartram in Distinct pages—could you See them they would I am sure give you Entertainmt and putt you in a Regular methode for future Inquiries—in Some matters I really don't know such ano.^r knowing Indefatigable Man as Doc Gronovius—

Yours Bro^r Sent Mee a Letter for you complaining He had not heard from you which I inclosed Early in the Spring to J. Bartram by Cap Bream who I Desir'd to forward It to you—I am glad to hear of the Philadelphia Society, I certainly think cannot Labour Long when Such wonders are all round them Ready brought forth to their hands and to Which Wee are great Strangers Butt because you See them Every Day they are thought Common & not worth Notice.

Hither to I have wrote only to blot paper but now I tell you Some thing new Doc^r night a Physition has found the Art of Giveing Such a magnetic power to Steel that the poor old Loadstone is putt quite out of Countenance, His Steel Magnets act on the Needle & transmit their power to Knives &c. as the Loadstone—Butt He has also shown a Secret on the Loadstone not Known before—by Increasing its attractive power to a great Degree—& can att pleasure Change the poles how he pleases—take these examples—a Loadstone of a parelle pipepid Form he made the opposite Ends South poles & the Midle quite round all North poles; In another flat Stone he made the opposite Ends North poles & the opposite Sides South poles In another load Stone of an Irregular flat Shape he made half of Each of the flat Surfaces

a North pole & the other half a South Pole—So as that the Two half Surfaces opposite Each other, Should be of a Contrary Denomination with many other Changes & Varieties Showing He had the power to Impress the faculty of Either pole in any part of the Load Stone with as much ease—as a Load stone will Influence a Needlee

I am Y^{rs}

P COLLINSON

D Gronovius hopes you'l continue y^r Remarks & Send him seeds of any of yr Vegetable production.

From John Rutherford

ALBANY 20th June 1745

Sir

The Old Members were re-elected here by Mr Livingston's giving up his Son & he & All the Commissioners Justices &c. Joining their Interests against Lidius who I'm told would have caryed it against 'em all, had Mr Johnstown & others who were against the Old Members come to toun, but he & many others despairing too soon did not come down and gave over acting for Lidius. I hope this will find you at New York where I have directed it for you & where I'm certain your presence will be extremely wanted & Your Knowledge & experience in affairs will be thoroughly tried in getting things done with Such spirit as is necessary in so Critical a Juncture of affairs both at home and abroad At home from the Encroachments of The Assembly, Abroad in Assisting against The Common Enemy. I see by A plan in last Newspaper That The Fortifications of Loiusbourg are quite different from what we imagined when you was here & so strong that I don't imagine The New England Forces would ever have taken it by themselves otherwise than by starveing them & now that they have the assistance of A Number of Men of war & 400 Marines doe I think they will be able to make themselves Mas-

ters of the Place without great assistance from This Province, For Boston is exhausted allready & Britain too distant. As we ought to lay our accounts that Our Enemys will do what is properest for them to do, should they send A small Army of French & Indians from Quebec to harrass our Forces from the Woods & throw in a supply of Men & Provisions to the town 'twill render it A very tedious siege & I hear of no Lines thrown up by our people to defend themselves and Trenches from such Attacks nor do I believe 'its easy to do it The soil being rocky; Soe unless this Province raise a Sufficient number of Men & Provisions Cape Breton will remain in French hands & they'l soon repent their ill timed saveing be blamed by all at home & abroad & instead of thanks the curses of their Posterity. Twould not be worth while to Send fewer than 1600 & the 4 Companys, in all 2000 Men, the 1600 could be raised by Detachments from the Militia viz so many out of each 100 delivered by the Capts of Militia to The Capts appointed for the Service & this done as soon as The Vessels at New York & Albany sloops could be fitted to transport them which I should be of opinion could be done in a fortnight if Gentlemen of Familys Interest & Character resolve to goe on the expedition & set about it with Spirit. Governour Clintoun has allready done every thing in his power to promote the honour & Interest of His Majesty & The Province, how ill he has been supported in so laudable designs hitherto we have seen to the sorrow of all Men of sense or honour in The Province, And indeed I have Some fears at seeing so many of Last Assembly reelected that it may prove difficult to make them understand their true interest & proper way of Serveing themselves The Publick & their posterity by doeing what is necessary for supporting the honour & Interest of This Province & annoying our Enemys whom we'l find ten times the expence of defending ourselves against when attacked here, than in preventing that, by attacking them when so fair an opportunity offers of doeing it to good purpose. Should This Assembly happen to follow the example of the last I

hope, I dare say The Council will, take the most vigorous measures, by exerting their own power here & proper applications at home, to oblige the Assembly to confine themselves to their own proper business of levying what money is judged necessary upon the people by the properest & least oppressive methods & no longer pretend to name Treasurer Collectors &. C. when whoever mentioned such a thing at home would be used as A stirrer up of Sedition & rebellion, I own I'm much surprised how any Former Governour could give up His Majesty's & their own power & Authority in so many different things intrusted with them, & now lost proves soe prejudicial to The Present Governour & to the Publick. As I had the pleasure of talking these affairs all over with you when you did me the honour of a Visit here, You know my way of thinking on these matters & if my comeing down, tho' 'twould be very inconvenient, can be of the smallest Service I am ready at a minutes warning. I beg your thoughts of affairs as soon as you receive this for I know by that time you'l can form Some Judgement of them. How does Your Lady & Your Children keep their healths? Has My Wife any chance of Seeing One of the Young Ladys here? She has been out of order ever since you left & like to lose her but allmost only Companion here Widow Schuyler who seems just a dying. I am D S^r Sincerely yours &. c. &. C.

JOHN RUTHERFURD

Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson.

[Copy]

NEW YORK June 20th 1745

S^r

In my last to you by Bryant which I suspect you have not receiv'd because he was to deliver it with his own hands I told you that I had pleas'd my self with the conceit of my being able to explain the Cause of Gravi-

tation a point which has hitherto puzzled the ablest Philosophers My speculations have so far pleas'd my self & appear to me to be founded upon such evident principles that I have adventur'd to put them to the press in order to have a sufficient number of copies to submit it to the examination of the Learned and for this purpose I now send nine copies to you that you may give them to such of your friends as you shall think proper Judges. As a meer point of Speculation I think it will be acceptable to the curious if it in any manner approach to the opinion I have of it but besides this I think that the uses it can be applied to are more considerable for in my opinion it opens a Method for improvement in Astromony & all the Sciences which depend upon it as Navigation and Geography which exceeds any thing hitherto don. Before I fell upon these thoughts I did not suspect that the Theory & that the best Tables of Equations for the Earths Motion were defective at least not in the degree which I now think they are after many calculations which I have made and if an Astronomer err in the place of the Earth this error will more or less affect every observation which he makes of any of the heavenly bodies & will occasion some degree of error in all the Deductions which he draws from his observations. I propose to give an entire Theory of the Earths motion from the Principles in this treatise which I have now published which in several parts will be entirely new I propose to explain the Phenomena from those principles & some of which tho principal Phenomena in the earths motion not so much as attempted by S^r Is. New^t & show that they necessarily follow from them & then to remove all doubts I hope to show that it agrees with all the observations made by Mr. Flamstead in his *Historia Coelestis* to a greater accuracy than can be obtain'd by any thing hitherto published

The Parliament as I am inform'd has proposed a great reward for the Discovering a Method to find Longitude at Sea I do not at present pretend to any thing of this kind, but I'l presume to say that the ascertaining

the Motion of the Earth at all times & discovering its true place with sufficient preciseness is the first step necessary without which all the others will fail & if I be able to fix this one step it will make the future discovery more easy. It is from motives which this opinion of the Accuracy of my Theory suggests that I so earnestly desire to be enabled to apply more of the little part of life which remains to me than my present circumstances will allow me in bringing my thoughts into order & in forming Tables which I hope will exceed any thing which has yet appear'd I all along mean so far as my knowlege of Books extends. I have several times heard that the Duke of Argyle & Earl of Macclesfield have acquired a knowledge in all the Parts of Philosophy far exceeding what could be expected from men in their high Stations & for that reason if you think proper I should be glad that each of them had a copy sent them

We are all now in great hurry in preparing to attack the French Settlements in Canada & I am affray'd the times are very improper for the speculations in which I employ my thoughts. I am not acquainted with the Master of this Vessel but I have got a friend to engage him to take care of the Packet in which the nine copies of my piece are inclosed directed to you & that he will keep it by him till you send for it The title of the treatise is An Explanation of the first causes of Action in Matter and of the Cause of Gravitation. The Masters name is Ferdinando Clark commander of the Snow Sally of New York.

I long'd to hear whether the Papers which your favour to me made you put in M^r Scroopes hand gave him any kind of Satisfaction your Silence on that head in your last I am affray'd proceeded from your unwillingness to say anything that you thought could not be agreeable to me One design in those papers was to show some inconveniences & Disappointments which have happen'd to the Nation by putting men at this distance at the head of affairs what were not thought capable of meaner employments at home & I heartily wish that

it may appear there is now no occasion for such observations

Governor Shirley & the People whom he Governs have remarkably distinguished themselves & have very deservedly obtained the applause of the world while some of their neighbours of whom no notice is taken deserve to be distinguished in a very different manner

Now Dear S^r I hope I need not make any apology for the trouble I give if I had not thought that your heart would approve of the presumption I should not have attempted it & otherwise I am sure no apology can be made by

To MR. PETER COLLINSON

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD Jun 26 1745

S^r

I am obliged to you for your's of y^e 16th & have delayed now till the last Moment of M^r Watkin's Continuance here, in hopes I should receive the Intelligence I have been promised & have now again call'd for upon the Subject of your Letter—As to M^r Prince he had almost finished his Letter when he was hurried away to Boston upon Some Affairs of his Brother in which he could not do without his Assistance & is but lately returned, & Since his Return has been ever Since M^r Watkins was here, a dozen Miles out of town till last night & I much question whether he can be ready with the transcript of it before M^r Watkins must go.—Nor Shall I have D^r Hubbards account of the Case At New Haven before to morrow So that I beleive I must Send them at last by the way of M^r Nicholls of New York.—We are intirely well pleased with your Introduction, as being the Clearest Method of teaching that Curious Science that we have Seen, but it is not So clear to us that you really differ from the Bishop:—I am persuaded

could you converse together & explain your Selves to each other you would find the Difference would come to little or nothing. However I can not yet pretend to be a fit Judge, having never thoroughly examined your peice—for no Sooner did I receive it of M^r Prince, but I immediately Sent it away to one D^r Osborn an ingenious physician & good Mathematician At Middletown, who having read the Bishops peices had a great Curiosity to see Yours, & has not yet returned it. I hope e'er long to Send you his Sense of it.

As far as I can find here has been another Cure performed with the Inspissated Juice of Pokeweed greater than that at New Haven which I hope to Send you, having desired M^r Watkins to call for it, having the promise of the woman's Brother that he would write all that he knows of the matter. The Woman had what was called a Cancer in her Breast which had eat it to a very great degree, & She was told by another Woman, whose Breast had been eat off to her bare ribbs, if I remember right how She was cured by this Medicine, upon which She used it & it perfectly cured her, but the Operation was at first exceeding painful. But I refer you her Brothers Account which if M^r Watkins does not get now I will Shortly Send.

I See by parker's News paper that you, as I imagine, have indeed had Several Thoughts upon Tar-water, & as I apprehend, to very good purpose, And I Should be glad you will publish any thing further y^t occurs to you on that or any other Subject, for I like your way of writing, very much:—I was thinking of Sending those papers to y^e Bp.—The^{re} have been Several scorbutic Disorders in these parts which have found much benefit from the use of Tar-water, but I never knew a Cure made by that or Scarce any other Medicine equal to that you desire an Account of from me: M^r Beach is a Wealthy Shopkeeper in this Town; he had a Negro Boy about 12 years old he was very fond of, who proved to have the yaws. He was Seemingly cured by one D^r Russel here in the mercurial way: but in about half a year it broke out again

as the D^r apprehended it would: upon this M^r Beach Sent him to D^r Dupey of New-York who had him several Months & he can tell you his Case better than I but he at length Sent him home for an Incurable: & he Soon grew so Loathsom that they could not endure him in the House, & Shut him up in an out-house, & So kept him Some months; only making him as comfortable as his Case would admit & began to expect he would Soon die.—When Tar water came in Vogue, His Mistress obliged him to drink a pint & a half of it ever day, hardly hoping it would do any good but in a week or fortnight he was Sensibly mended & went on growing better; till in about 3 months he became perfectly Sound & well, & So has continued to this day which is about 6 months from the time he began to drink & there appears not the least reason to doubt but he may hold So & he grows fleshy. And there is no imaginable means to ascribe it to but Tar water, with y^e advantage of his youth This is as exact an Account of what may be depended upon for certain fact, as I can give M^r Beach y^t Minister of y^e Chh of England at Newtown & Reading Seems to have had exactly the Same Disorder which y^e Bishop himself had, which I think he calls a Nervous Collic, & Tar Water has had exactly the same happy Effect upon him as it had on y^e Bp. I see in the Magazine for last December, the famous D^r Hales (Author of y^e vegetable Statics) has lately published Some Experiments & observations on Tar water w^c is doubtless very well worth reading.—I am

S^r y^r most obliged humble Serv^t

SA. JOHNSON.

I was obliged to write
in y^e utmost hast which I
hope you'l be so good as to excuse.

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
at
Coldenham

John Hubbard to Dr. Samuel Johnson

Rev^d: & Honoured Sir

I am ashamed you should take so much Pains, thro' my Neglect, to serve the Publick. I have Nothing to apologize for myself but a Multiplicity of Affairs continually solliciting my Attendance My Disposition to render Mankind easy & happy is, I hope, as great as any man's, of my Capacity: but however y^t be, my Obligation to you would have been abundantly sufficient to have engaged me in the Service you desired of me. I Sundry Times endeavoured to wait upon Cap^t Dickerman to get a compleat History of his Cure when some Thing or other disappointed me. Yesterday I went into the Field to him, and got as particular an Account from him, as his memory, which I believe is very good, would furnish me with, which I choose to give in his own Words, as I took them from his Mouth. The Account of Isaac Dickerman Esq^r concerning his Cancer.

"About the 50th Year of my Age, there appeared on my
"Face near my Eye, a small Scab about the Bigness of
"an ordinary Pin's Head, but a Little differently coloured
"from the Skin, only a little darker: It continued about
"Six Weeks encreasing, and then came off, and the Skin
"smooth. In three or four Days it began again and so
"encreased and came off as before, tho' something sooner;
"and so it continued coming on and going off, for some
"Time, tho' something sooner every Time, till it would
"come on, and go off in a Week's Time: and as the Time
"of it's coming on was shorter it encreased proportion-
"ably, and would be as big when it came off in a Week,
"as it used to be when it was longer a growing, and not
"only so, but it's Sieze encreased 'till it was as big as half
"an Hazel Nut: it grew gradually darker. After a while
"it was wet under the scab, and in three or four Year's
"Time, there was Corruption under it. It was attended
"generally with a Burning, and sometimes an Iching, as
"if a Flie had lightten on my Face, upon a small brush

“it ceased. My Cheek was sometimes attended with a
“smart Pain, as if a Thread was drawn thro it. Blisters
“generally abated the Symptoms, and I felt the same
“Pain in the Blisters Sundry Sort of Means I used
“seemed for a while to do good, but yet in the general
“it grew, till it got to the sieze before mentioned. I
“consulted the best Physicians and Syrgeons in the
“Country, who all agreed it was a Cancer, but not of
“the worst sort. They were of Opinion that Nothing
“would cure it but either hot or cold Iron, but it being
“so near my Eye, the Consequence was feared, other-
“wise I should have submitted to the operation. Wait-
“ing upon Providence till I was about Sixty Years of
“Age, in the latter End of the Summer, I was informed
“that the Poke Weed Juice would cure Cancers, upon
“which I tried it in the following Manner. I applied a
“new Plaister, generally once in Twelve Hours: The
“first Plaister fetched the Scab off without much Pain,
“the next began to draw, and upon every new Applica-
“tion the Drawing and Pain encreased. I continued it
“three Weeks. After the use of it for sometime, upon
“the first putting on a new Plaister, the Pain was as
“great for a few minutes as if hot Embers had been put
“on. It made three Holes about as big as a Pin’s Head,
“out of which issued Matter like what comes out of a
“Boil. At the three Weeks End I was discouraged with
“it, and left it off. Upon leaving it off the Cancer pres-
“ently grew much better & seemed almost well. About
“a Month after I applied it again and followed it five
“Weeks, at the End of which I seemed perfectly cured,
“and the Plaister would stick no longer. In about three
“years it appeared again, and I used as before, and have
“supposed ever since I had a pefect Cure, till this Spring.
“I now and then feel the Symptoms of it near my Nose,
“at some Distance from the original Scab. I am now
“Sixty Six I made the Ointment in the following Man-
“ner. I took the Leaves, Stalk and Berries & pounded
“them, & Squeezed out the Juice, and set it in the Sun,
“in a Pewter Dish, till it came to the Thickness of an

"Ointment I took Care that the Juice should be about
 "three Quarters of an Inch deep in the Platter, for I
 "observed if it was shallower it did not make so good
 "Ointment.

The above is exactly as the Cap^t related his Cure &c.
 to me. He inform'd me, which I believe may be worth
 inquiring after, that a Daughter of Madam Winthrop
 of New London came to him a year or two agoe, with a
 Cancer, he advised her to use the Poke Weed, and y^t he
 has heard it has cured her I shall probably have Oppor-
 tunity next Week to inform myself, and if the important
 Affair of Cape Breton dos not croud it out of my Mind
 I will improve it and transmit you the Account. My
 best Regard to Madam Johnson I am hon^d Sir with all
 possible Respect your most obliged Friend & very humble
 Serv^t

JOHN HUBBARD.

[Indorsed]
 The Reverend
 Dr SAM^{LL} JOHNSON
 at
 Stratford.

From Joh. Fred. Gronovius.

Dear Sir

Few weeks ago I hath the favour by the good care of
 Mr. Collinson to get Your Letter dated the 8 Dec. 1744.
 with some other papers &c. for which I am very much
 obliged to you.

In the new Characteres you hath so many curious ob-
 servations, that I immediatly resolved to communicate
 them with D^r Linneus, having just that time a good
 occasion to send a box to Him by sea:

As soon I have the answer of the Doctor, I shall com-
 municate it to You. And to you querries in the Letter
 I shal endeavour to find time. However in the Examen
 Epicriseos Sigesbekiancæ by Browallius You may find
 some dilucidations. I don't remember that there is in
 3 years time printed a book of any value, except the

two volumes of Dr. Van Sweetens commentaries upon the Aphorisms of Boerhave, the rest he shall perform when he is settled at Vienna.

Mr. Geogfroy at paris hath printed lately a materia medica in an exceeding good way, but this book is not to be get in Holland. I heard only by a gentleman that showed me the book, that he maketh frequent mention of the flora virg.

There is also printed at paris a new edition of the Systema of Linneus with severall emendations about the quadrupedia, and insecta; but I have not yet seen it.

I am very much obliged to You for Mr. Franklin's book, which I don't doubt the next letter shall bring it to you translated into dutch.

Pray my service to Dr. du Bois, to whom Dr Ens send this dissertation. I wish to know how my old acquaintance Dr Johnston from Albania doth. My Neighbour Mr. Heak going in few hours to Helvoet, I am obliged to finish these and wish you all health and prosperity, being

Your most obedient servant

JOHN FRED. GRONOVIVS

Layden July 9 1745

Dear Friend

y^e 5 of novem^r

this day I received this open but sealed within A packet of mine so I tooke y^e freedom to read it. As well as to scribble on it—I wish I could have understood y^e books but as little as I can understand lattin I perceive it is a curious performance

I hope I have some pretty matter come from our friend Gronovius but not yet opened. If I find any thing worth communicating none will do it more readily than they friend

JOHN BARTRAM

Philadelphia

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD July 10 1745

S^r

As I conclude what passes thro' M^r Nichols's hands to you goes Frank, I take this Opportunity to Send those things by the post, which, (tho' I endeavoured hard for it,) I could not get together time enough to Send them by M^r Watkins. & indeed that Case of the Woman I could not get before this Day. I doubt not but you may depend on these to be true Representations of Fact, being taken from y^e persons mouths verbatim, but I doubt whether they are exact enough to answer your Expectation.—As to M^r Prince's Letter I leave it to speak for it Self, without making any Remarks on that Subject, for which I do not think my Self well qualified, especially Since I have not yet received your peice from D^r Osburn, whose Opinion of the matter I hope I shall have Opportunity e'er long to Send you.—I should be glad to know what you think of M^r Princes performance I wish for the sake of those that incline to Study Fluxions, your peice could be printed in these parts, & the rather because I should be glad to Send the Bp a Copy of it. But I conclude there are no Types for Such a purpose. If in any thing I can be further useful to you, please to command.

S^r

y^r most obedient
humble Servant

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

P. S.

After writing this Letter I reviewed your Introduction in M^r Princes Copy, & do think you have gone as far as possible, (& in the most advanageous methods that could be devised,) in assisting the Imagination upon that difficult subject. But after all I confess I am lost in the Supposition of there being actually an infinite Number of parts in a finite Quantity & a Supposition that I cannot

see to be at all necessary to enter into the Doctrine of Fluxions, which are not to be supposed the less useful, by what the Bp objects against the method that some take in hadling them. The Case seems to be only this, that we substitute small finite Quantities, such as the Imagination can easily conceive of, to represent Quantities vastly & indefinitely large & such as Scarce come within the reach of our Imagination: But thence to conclude that there are infinite parts in those finite Quantities, because they bear no proportion to those they are put to represent, Seems hardly a just conclusion.—The hundred millionth part of the Orbis magnus is something considerable, can be conceived of, but does it therefore follow that there are actually 100000000 parts much less an infinite number of parts in a line an inch long which is put to represent it? Nor can I be clear in it that the supposition of Actual Infinites is necessary in order to treat of Incommensurables, Such as Curves with regard to right Lines &c.—However, I am clear in this, that I am not qualified (as I said) to write on this Subject, & therefore shall add no more, nor shall I think hardly of it if you consider what I have here hastily said as being but little to y^e purpose.

y^{rs} S. J.

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

at

Coldenham

in

The province of New York

to the Care of Mr NICHOLS post Master.

STRATFORD July 12th A: D: 1745

The account of Hannah Murray Concerning her Cancer About y^e 23^d year of my age there appeared on y^e Side of my breast a Blue Speck about y^e bigness of a Corn of powder, w^{ch} Continued about Seven years without any knot, but attended once in a while with Sharp pain, after which term, came a knot as big as a Large pins head,

after y^e knot Came it Seem^{ed} as if a String was fastened to my breast bone from y^e Speck, in a few days after y^e knot grew as big as an hazel nut, & in a months time encreased to y^e bigness of an Egg immediately after y^t y^e Blue Speck Came off, & there Came Clear water from under y^e Speck, then taking y^e advice of y^e most Skillfull Chirurgeons who Concluded y^t it was a Cancer of y^e worst Sort, I was Directed to a Gentlewoman y^t had been Cured of a Cancer, whose Directions I followed & with a blessing on y^e means I obtained a Cure—She directed me to take y^e Leaves & Small Branches of Poke weed pound them together Squeeze out y^e Juice, put it into Earthen pots & Set in y^e Sun until it came to y^e thickness of an ointment then Spread a plaister on y^e Leaf no bigger yⁿ y^e knot (whilst y^e Leaf was green to be used, in y^e winter black Silk,) and to apply a new plaister four or five times in 24 hours if I could endure y^e pain, which was Exceeding Sharp, she told me it would make it apparently worse, for it would draw it to y^e out Side from y^e bottom which I found to be true, for in a Small time after I used y^e means it opened five holes in my Breast y^e biggest where y^e Speck was, which was so big as to put in y^e end of my thumb, She told me to take no physick, nor use any strong drink, Except in case of faintness, which means I used from august to march, and then it healed of a Sudden, & hath been well now twelve years

the above account taken from her mouth

per me

JOHN PATTERSON.

From John Bartram

July y^e 15th 1745

dear friend

I have received thy kind letter of June y^e 30th I am sorry y^e Plumb apricot or Nectarin stones is not come up which

I sent thee. no more is any of mine yet I have some hopes thay may come up next year. I intend to send y^e seeds of y^e Saururus & starroot when it is ripe in y^e fall y^e roots of y^e first is commonly called Brest root from it excelent vertues in curing sore brests being made into A poultise I allso knowed A man that had been long affected with A grievous pain of his back & brest with great weakness & could not find any relife from medicines until A Palatine man gave him y^e leaves of this herb in powder which he called Oister Lacie or in our terms Aristo Lochia I suppose from y^e Likeness of its leaves to that plant. this gave him immediate relief & as he tould me cured him in A few times takeing it. ye star root is chiefly used by several for y^e pain of y^e stomack thay boil y^e root in water & drink y^e decoction after y^e method of our Indians from whome thay learned y^e use of it, I should be mightily pleased with thy good Company (which I value very much) and Captain Rutherfords at y^e Katskill mountains; If I durst venture on such A journey this season I would rejoyce in y^e favour of your Company but at present I am poorly & support my acking head on my hand & ellboo leaning on y^e table while I scribe over this paper I hardly know how, my neighbouring town ships is sorely distressed with Fluxes & fevers in y^e City many children dieth & in y^e Countrey many lusty young men so that I think it not convenient to leave my family of little helpless children so far from home in so sickly A time I doubt our society will be so long A brooding that some of y^e chickings will be starved if thay dont seek out themselves in y^e fields for food

relating to y^e vertue which I ascribed to oil of turpentine I think thee takes my expression after A different sence to what I intended it. indeed I wrote that letter in A hurry & had not time to take A copy of it or scarsly look it over after I had wrote it. but as I remember I intended onely to let thee know how much it refreshed mee & helped my inward bruise & I thought might hinder y^e blood from coagulating but I hope thee did not find

any place in my letter wherein I ascribed y^e reduction of y^e dislocated rib to y^e oil as thee seems to question my ribs being dislocated I shall freely tell thee my reasons for believing thay was eleven O'Clock Ant. merid y^e horse gave mee A kick with all his force by y^e spine on my short ribs I stood y^e stroke but could not fetch my breath until I laid down on y^e ground & roled about. & then I both felt & heard y^e end of one or more of my ribs slip in & out of y^e socket of my back bone as I drawed A full breath then I got up & walked about A 100 yards to my house & was helped of with my cloathes & put to bed in great pain & very fainty I presently took 8 drops of y^e oil which as I believe refreshed mee exceedingly then my wife looked at my back & where y^e blow was given was turned black & sweled & my pain was very sharp in my left side from y^e Sternum to y^e spine & on y^e least motion my Diaphragma would be so contracted that I could harly draw breath until it relaxed again & when I drawed A full breath my wife could hear my rib snap into its place again tho she was several yards of—she soon got some rum & salt & bathed my back which soon tooke away y^e blackness & swelling & eased y^e pain she bathed it often with y^e rum & salt for 2 days & nights & I took y^e oil every 6 hours this method I tooke in order to hinder y^e blood from stagnating presently after y^e first application of y^e salt the pain & blackness was removed but upon y^e least motion my brest & under my short ribs would be pained & contracted so that I could hardly get breth I suppose y^e blow drove y^e lowermost ribs foreward & strained y^e midrif for there y^e pain & cramp seemed y^e worst which engaged me to ly as still as A log by which y^e rib kept it place so well that we never heard it snap in after y^e first day—y^e reduction of my rib I ascribe to taking A full breath & keeping it in its right place to stillness & lying quiet

After I had passed 48 hours after this manner & perceiving no sighn of any blood stagnating in my brest (for I was very free from A fever) I ordered A strengthening plaster to my back & A discutient one to my brest

which I kept on 3 weeks now dear friend I have Candidly laid before thee y^e symptoms & method of Cure & leave thee to Judge whether there was not a dislocation & whether I did not consider these symptoms reasonably & endeavour to apply proper means for their Cure some persons advised me to flebotomy but I trusted to y^e oil to answer that article—I have not room to take perticular observations of thy curious letter must defer it to another time—y^e seed which y^e sent me for y^e bush squash groweth finely but all runs about strongly yet I believe thee sent y^e right sort for most of them grewed upright at first but our heat drawed them out such A length that thay leaned to y^e ground & now runns in long vines like others but very large y^e leaves near 18 inches diameter: if paper did not confine me I should wear out thy patience but I hope thy generosity will excuse thy friend

JOHN BARTRAM

[Indorsed]

For dr

CADWALADER COLDEN

Free

B. S.

From John Rutherford

Dear Sir

I'm sorry to find by yours of the 15th Instant & by One befor from New York that there's nothing now to be expected from this Province either for their own honour or His Majestys Service so I shan't trouble you with one word more of Politicks; but have Sent you down Leibnitz's Systems explained & defended & Popes Ethick Epistles now admired in all Languages & for as General & Moderate as they are, yet Criticised & found fault with in Most languages & allways by wrong Translation & his meaning taken wrong when you've done with that I'l Send you some more of his Works & when you've finished this of Leibnitz I'l Send you his Theodicée. Takeing Cape Breton surprised me as much as if I had never heard of the Attack for I never Imagined

The French would allow A Place of that Consequence to be so ill provided of Powder which it seems obliged them to Surrender haveing only left 44 Barrels scarce enough for one days fireing. Tis a Plaguey affair to See the Indians now tradeing here one day & goeing to War against New England next; Our Sachems are not yet returned from Canada tho they've been expected for Some time; We hear of no more Murthers since the first two in England, their Scouts with the Assistance of their line of Forts frightens the Indians from attempts, which I find they allways make by Stealth daring nothing openly. Pray does Our Philadelphia Bottanist come to Catskill or not, I'm resolved to goe in Search of Tree & Shrub Seeds soe if you meet with any you think worth while in the mean time cause gather & dry 'em for me, If I dare leave this place soe long in the present situation of affairs. viz: No officers, & it chance of need for them here, I'l Venture then on A day or two with you at Coldingham, In the mean time my best respects to all Your good Family & believe me

Sir

Your Most obed^t Humble

Servant JOHN RUTHERFORD

Albany 30th July

1745

[Indorsed]

To

The Honourable

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

at

Coldingham.

*Observations of Cadwallader Colden upon the plan
against Louisburgh 1745.*

[Undated]

The Plan in general seems from the knowlege I have of the Geography of the Country to be exceedingly well concerted yet some difficulties occur to me in the Execution which do not appear to be sufficiently obviated.

By any Information which I have had vessels of the Burthen mentioned in the plan may pass from Quebec to Montreal but then it is to be consider'd that 30 leagues above Quebec there is no tide but allwise a strong fresh Water Stream which frequently makes the passage from Quebec to Montreal very tedious if the Winds prove contrary. That the River in many places is full of Islands & consequently may require good pilots which it will be difficult for us to obtain & there is the more reason to guard against this if the Information which I have be true that the French themselves after they pass Trois rivieres in their way from Quebec to Montreal never sail in the night tho' the wind be fair & they be in such danger of a tedious passage in case the wind fail. It may likewise be Questioned whether vessels of Burthen can be carried by the force of oars alone against the Stream of St Lawrence river

As to any hopes of the Cagnawaga Indians leaving the French or accepting of a Neutrality little stress ought to be laid upon it because I believe these poor ignorant people are entirely influenced by the French Priests tho' their morals might make one think they were influenced by no religion yet every days experience Shows strong enthusiasts without any morality especially among the papists. I doubt much that the numbers of the six Nations that will join with us together with the Virginia Indians and others will amount to 1500 men for I question very much if we shall be able to draw 500 from all the six nations & my reason for it is this that the French Politics of making those Neutrals of whom they have no hopes of engaging on their side has prevail'd very much among our Indians The French have been very industrious in propogating this maxim or piece of Policy among all our Indians & Perhaps the moravians are their tools for this purpose while we have taken no pains to guard against this artifice & if I be not mistaken the Traders at Albany have been so far from opposing the French designs in this Step that they have rather promoted them in hopes of being themselves comprehended

in the Neutrality & tho now they may see their folly in this step it may not be in our power to make the Indians alter their measures What others may do I cannot say but I am perswaded that the trading part of the City of Albany have lost all influence over our Indians

To trust entirely to two or 3 Indians to carry the advice of the arival of the fleet in the River St Laurence by way of the other Kill seems to me to be too precarious it must be sent in my opinion different ways & not entirely trusted to Indians since upon this advice all the operations of that part of the Army which goes by land must depend

The alteration proposed to be made in the scheme form'd at homes seems to me to be on very cogent reasons & I shall add another which weighs with my self. The Levies in the Southern parts of this Government will chiefly consist of Irish servants lately freed from their Servitude & I believe those of the more southern Colonies will be generally such likewise & who have not been accustomed to the Woods or to the use of firearms as the inhabitants on the Frontiers generally are. These servants are likewise generally papists & for that reason great numbers & in this case perhaps they may be the greater number cannot with safety be trusted in an undisciplined Army whose officers have had no experience in command going against an Ennemy of their own Religion as the army to go by land must certainly be But if they be sent with the regular troops & with the fleet there may be no danger from them in this respect. And tho there arival at Louisburgh may be too late for the fleet to wait for them a small convoy may be sufficient to carry them after the fleet

But as to that part of the Scheme which purposes that the part of the Army which is to march by land should pass by Crown point without attempting to reduce that Garrison strong objections occur to me First it is against the General maxims of War to leave any Fortifications of the Ennemy behind & if the general & fixed rules be neglected in case of any misfortune the Conduct

of the Generals or of the Council which advises will be liable to exceptions that cannot be easily got over. The Wisest Men cannot foresee every accident that may defeat the best concerted measures & therefor unforeseen accidents must be guarded against by observing the general rules as well as those that are foreseen by special precaution

Cadwallader Colden to ———

[Copy]

COLDINGHAM Aug 7th 1745

S^r

As I receive no manner of benefit since the War with France by the Surv^r Gen^l office & that I at this time have been at more than my common expence by my son Cadwallader's Marriage & settling besides the more than usual constant expence now in time of War of a large family it is necessary for me to mind my private business more carefully to avoid all the extraordinary expence I can & therefor I must desire of you from our friendship to my family to make my excuse to the Gentlemen of the Council in case they incline to require my attendance next Session since as I conceive there can be no necessity for it for the whole time of y^e Session in going through the formalities of passing bills The attendance on the Council puts the Gentlemen who live in town to no extraordinary expence & there number is sufficient We in the country may therefor hope to be excused when there is no necessity but if it be thought requisite that some of us who live in the Country attend as M^r Livingstone did not attend last Session & has not in general given his attendance so often as I have & has not the same excuse which I have I hope my excuse may be preferr'd to his. I suppose that the Business of the Session is concerted before the meeting & when that is don as I take it the business of the Council is litle else besides formality

because we have no parties or disputes among us When ever my attendance shall be thought to be of real use I shall very cheerfully give it but when it is not so I hope it will not be insisted on or that Mr Livingstone & I be so far indulged as to give our attendance by turns As I am no way upon the reserve in giving any assistance at this time I shall freely tell you one thing which in my opinion ought to be thought of before the meeting of the assembly & measures concerted concerning it There is no doubt but that the taking of Cape Breton will give uneasy apprehensions to Canada & that they'll expect to be attacked next. They must of course think of every thing to prevent this I know of nothing in their power likely to be so effectual as inciting our own Indians to revolt against us which with the assistance of the French & French Indians would give us work enough at home And that the French are actually upon this project I think appears plainly enough by the conduct of our own Indians at this time. Our Indians the Mohawks in particular by all accounts are very much dissatisfied & have been so many years & several of them gon this summer to Canada under this ill disposition When I was among them above seven years since they were so & by all the Information I can obtain it has not lessen'd but increased It seems to me likewise certain that the Indians are so far from having any Confidence in the men who have the Commission for Indian affairs that they have an absolute diffidence of y^m Neither have the People of the County of Albany any confidence in them it is impossible then that the Indian affairs can be well managed in their hands It is not difficult to discover from what this arises but be it from what ever cause This Diffidence of it self makes it necessary to put the management into other hands & in my opinion the Indian affairs will be better managed by one or two than by such a number as now are in commission especially in time of War which requires in all urgent cases at least the greatest secrecy & greatest dispatch. There is no doubt it will be easier to find one or two men fit to be

intrusted then twenty as the case now is. Perhaps this may occasion a greater expence because when people serve the publick without any private view they'l expect a different pay from what will satisfy those who make up of publick employment only to their private profit but be that expence what ever since it is necessary it must be provided for In my opinion it is more necessary for the defence of the province than the Fortifications about the City of New York It will be of immediat & certain use in securing the agriculture & trade whereas the use of those Fortifications can only be casual. I am likewise of opinion that his Excellency's Meeting with the Indians will not be of that use which is expected unless the present Disposition of the Indians be first taken off by a continued & assiduous application of such means as may be necessary for that purpose neither can he till this is don have such information as may be necessary to treat with them effectually

Now S^r if such an expence be so necessary as it appears to me it must be provided for what ever it be but I believe that if the money usually given to the Com^{rs} of Indian affairs for that Service & the Duties on the Indian Trade were put under proper regulation the extraordinary expence will not be so great as at first may be imagined.

Before I conclude I think it proper to inform you of some particulars with in my own knowlege which makes what I now propose seem absolutely necessary to me When I was in the Mohawks country I carried some men with me who were thought to have & pretended to have the greatest influence on the Indians & who still pretend to that influence & yet were so far from having any such influence that the Indians abhorr'd them & I found when I travell'd through the County of Albany in may last that every man with whom I conversed (not an Indian trader) have at this time the same opinion. I had likewise an opportunity to observe that the Indians naturally are not diffident of those who have not abused their confidence for the Indians trusted me on several

occasions in which the people of Albany then with me said it was ridiculous to desire it of them & which they afterwards confess'd had never been allow'd to any of them & for these reasons I think that if the management of the Indian affairs were put into proper persons hands we will soon find a good effect from it

Now S^r if there be any resolution to take the Indian affairs under consideration next Session to any purpose like what I propose I will if desir'd cheerfully go to town to give my assistance if my assistance shall be thought usefull from my formerly having taken as much pains to be inform'd of the Indian affairs & treaties both with the English & French but if nothing more is likely to pass the Council than the necessary money bills & the common affairs I hope for the reasons I have given I may be excused & for this purpose I beg of you (if you think it proper) to communicat what I now write to the Gentlemen of the Council

From Benjamin Franklin

PHILAD^e Aug^t 15 1745

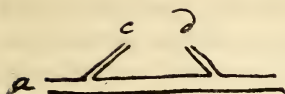
Sir

I receiv'd your Favour of the 20th past, with your medical Piece enclos'd the Reading of which gave me a great deal of Pleasure. I show'd it to our Friend M^r Bertram, who carried it home, and, as he since tells me, is taking a Copy of it; His Keeping of it for that End has prevented my Showing it to any other Gentlemen as you desired; and hither to prevented my Writing to you upon it as I intended. But lest you should conclude me the very worst Correspondent in the World I shall delay no longer giving you some Thoughts that occur'd to me in Reading of it; chusing rather to be blam'd for not writing to the Purpose, than for not Writing at all.

I am extreamly pleas'd with your Doctrine of the *Absorbent Vessels* intermix'd with the perspiratory Ducts

both on the external and internal Superficies of the Body. After I had read *Sanitorius*, I imagin'd a constant Stream of the perspirable Matter issuing at *Every* Pore in the Skin: But then I was puzzled to account for the Effects of mercurial Unctions, for the Strangury sometimes occasion'd by an outward Application to the Flies, and the like, since whatever Virtue or Quality might be in a Medicine laid upon the Skin, if it would enter the Body it must go against Wind and Tide, (as one may say). Dr Hales help'd me a little, when he inform'd me, (in his Vegetable Statics) that the Body is not always in a perspirable but Sometimes in an *imbibing State*, as he expresses it; & will at Times actually grow heavier by being expos'd to a moist Air. But this did not quite remove my Difficulty, Since, as these Fits of Imbibing did not appear to be regular or frequent, a Blistering Plaister might lie on the Skin a Week, or a mercurial Ungent be us'd a Month, to no purpose, if the Body should so long continue in a perspirable State. Your Doctrine, which was quite new to me, makes all easy, since the Body may perspire and absorb at the same Time, thro' the different Ducts destin'd to those different Ends.

I must own, however, that I have one Objection to the Explanation you give of the Operation of These Absorbents. That *They* should communicate with the Veins, and the Perspirants with the Arteries only, seems natural enough; but as all Fluids by the hydrostatical Law press equally in all Directions, I question whether the *mere Direction* of one of those minute Vessels (where it joins with a Vein or Artery) *with* or *against* the Stream of Blood in the larger Vessel, would be sufficient to produce such contrary Effects as *perspiring* and *absorbing*. If it would, both Perspirants and Absorbents might proceed from the Arteries only, or from the Veins only, or from both indifferently; as by the figure in the Margin, whether the Vessel *a b* is a Vein or an Artery, if the Stream moves from *a* to *b*, the minute communicating Vessel *c* shall be a Perspirant, and *d* an Absorbent, and contrary if



it moves from *b* to *a*.—Yet I cannot say, I am certain the mere Direction of the Vessels will have no Effect; I only suspect it, and am making a little Machine to try an Experiment with for Satisfaction 'Tis a Syphon made of two large Joints of Carolina Cane united at *e*, into which two small glass Tubes *f* & *g* are to be inserted one on the descending and the other on the ascending Side. I propose to fill the Syphon and the two glass Tubes with Water, and, when 'tis playing unstop at the same Instant the Tops of both glass Tubes, observing in which the Water sinks fastest. You Shall know the Success.—I conceive the Pressure of the Atmosphere on the Apertures of the two glass Tubes to be no way different from the Pressure of the same on the Mouths of the Perspirants and Absorbents; &c if the Water sinks equally in the two Tubes, notwithstanding the Direction of one *against* and the other with the Stream, I shall be ready to think we must look out for another Solution.—You will say, perhaps, that 'twill then be time enough, when the Experiment is try'd and Succeeds as I suspect; yet I cannot forbear attempting at one before hand, while some thoughts are present in my Mind. If a new Solution should be found necessary, this may be ready for Consideration

I do not remember that any Anatomist that has fallen in my Way, has assign'd any other Cause of the Motion of the Blood, thro' its whole Circle, than the contractile Force of the Heart, by which that Fluid is driven with Violence into the Arteries, and so continually propell'd by Repetitions of the same Force, till it arrives at the Heart again. May we, for our present

Purpose, Suppose another Cause, producing half the Effect; and say, that the Ventricles of the Heart, like Syringes, *draw* when they dilate, as well as *force* when they contract? That this is not unlikely, may be judg'd from the Valves Nature has plac'd in these Arteries to prevent the Drawing back of the Blood in those Vessels when the Heart dilates, while no Such Obstacles prevent its Sucking (to use the vulgar Expression) from the Veins. If this be allow'd, and the Insertion of the Absorbents into the Veins, and of the Perspirants into the Arteries, be agreed to, it will be of no Importance in what Direction they are inserted: For, as the Branches of the Arteries are continually lessening in their Diameters, and the Motion of the Blood decreasing, by means of the encreas'd Resistance, there must, as more is continually press'd on behind, arise a kind of *Crouding* in the Extremities of those Vessels which will naturally *force out* what is contain'd in the Perspirants that communicate with them. This lessens the Quantity of Blood, so that the Heart cannot receive again by the Veins all it had discharg'd into the Arteries, which occasions it to draw strongly upon the Absorbents that communicate with them. And thus the Body is continually perspiring and imbibing.—Hence, after long Fasting, the Body is more liable to receive Infection from bad Air; and Food, before 'tis sufficiently chyliified, is drawn crude into the Blood, by the Absorbents that open into the Bowels.—To confirm this position, that the Heart *draws* as well as *drives* the Blood, let me add this Particular. If you sit or lean long in such a Manner as to compress the principal Artery that Supplys a Limb with Blood, so that it does not furnish a due Quantity, you will be sensible of a pricking Pain in the Extremities like that of a thousand Needles; and the Veins, that us'd to raise your Skin in Ridges, will be (with the Skin) sunk into Channels; the Blood being drawn out of them, and their Sides press'd so closely together, that 'tis with Difficulty and slowly that the Blood afterwards enters them when the compress'd artery is reliev'd. If the Blood was not

drawn by the Heart, the Compression of an Artery could not empty a Vein; and I conjecture that the pricking Pain is occasion'd by the Sides of the Small Vessels being press'd together.

I am not without Apprehensions, that this Hypothesis is either not new, or, if it is new, not good for any Thing. It may however, in this Letter, (with the enclos'd Paper on a kindred Subject) serve to show the great Confidence I place in your Candour, since to you I so freely hazard myself (*ultra crepidam*) in Medling with Matters directly pertaining to your Profession, & entirely out of the way of my own. If you give yourself the Trouble of Reading them, 'tis all I can modestly expect. Your Silence about them afterwards will be Sufficient to convince me, that I am in the wrong; and that I ought to study the Sciences I dabble in, before I presume to Set Pen to Paper. I will endeavour however to make you Some Amends, by procuring you from better Judges some better Remarks on the Rest of your Piece; and shall observe your Caution not to let them know from whom I had it.

The Piece on Fluxions I purpose shortly to read again, and that on the several Species of Matter, when you shall have what little I shall be able to say about them.

The Members of our Society here are very idle Gentlemen; they will take no Pains. I must, I believe, alter the Scheme, and proceed with the Papers I have and may receive, in the Manner you advise in one of your former Letters. The mention of your former Letters puts me in mind how much I am in Arrear with you: Like some honest insolvent Debtors, I must resolve to pay ready Money for what I have hereafter, and discharge the old Debt by little and little as I am able.

The Impertinence of these Moskito's to me, (now I am in the Humour of Writing) prevents a great deal of mine to you, so that for once they are of some use in the World. I am Sir

Your most hum^{ble} Serv^t

B. FRANKLIN

From Hannah Lithgow

PHILAD^e Aug^t y^e 30th 1745

Sir

I am sorry to hear, by M^r Armit, that you think I used you rudely in my last. If you can remember & will coolly consider y^e contents of your several letters, especially y^e last, you must needs be sensible, that the harsh expressions which you were offended at, where only direct answers to your unkind, & positive assertions of things, which on your part were only surmises, but which had I taken your word for, & complied with your consequent demand had a manifest tendency to my ruin.

I am very willing to let M^r Armit see the deeds, & papers, relating to the Lands in question which as I told you before are all in my hands, M^r Lawrence is no way directly concerned in the thing, my intent in acquainting you, that the money which I payd y^e Wid^w Henderson was borrowed of him, by a friend on my behalf, was only to make you sensible, that my Husband selling the Lands to y^e Doct^r, & my rebying it of his Widow, was not a premeditated contrivance, to secure the Lands to me, to the prejudice of the right Heir, (as I can easily make appear,) but a real, lawful sale, from my Husband, & after his death, an accidental & unintended purchase of mine after advising with my Husbands Master M^r Murray and M^r Smith of New York, who were well acquainted with y^e state of y^e case, & told me, I might do it with safety, & which since your writing to me, has been confirmed by our most able counsellor at Law here, who on my laying the case, and deed before him, told me, my title was good I remain

Sir Your humble Servant

HANNAH LITHGOW

For
M^r CAD^r COLDEN
These

From James Alexander

NEWYORK Sep^r 1st 1745

Sir

on the 29th past Bryant arrived, he brought the enclosed to you from Collinson

he brings also the quadrant for the proprietors of East Jersey, in which they are Served pretty much as we were with the Circumferenters £30 Sterling was the price first proposed at, but Sissons acc^t comes to £47 odd shillings, & insurance & freight make it amount to £60 Sterling

But to make up for this, Collinson assures me that the Earle of Maclesfield & many other Curious men have Seen it & Say its the best piece of work that ever was done of its bigness, that its cheap at Sissons price & Sisson Says he would not make Such another for the same sum, & that by Mr Grahams directions concerning it which have been thro the whole followed it proves good beyond Expectation—With it comes a Certificate Signed by J Bevis & Ja. Short that they observed many Starrs with it, & took down the results of the observations Severally that they Seldon disagreed upon Comparing above 10 Seconds oftenist not above 5 Seconds & often Exactly agreed, & Say that any person but tolerably skilled in takeing observations can depend upon an altitude by it within half a minute—Under that Mr Graham approves of what they certify & Says it can be Depended upon within Less than half a minute; and if all this be true as I hope it is then is the instrument as good again as was Expected viz one to observe within one minute, but instead of it this is one, that observes with in half that

I have also with it about 9 pages of Directions for Setting it & Observing with it Signed by J. Bevis who Desires the favour of what Observations are made with it, & promises to Send them back with all the proper allowances Computed

I have also a List of 44 Stars near the zenith of 41 with their right ascension & Declination to the year 1744 with the annual variations greatest aberrations & Longitude of the Sun when the aberration is nothing, & rule to find it in all places, As Observed by Ja. Bradley with a Quadrant of Eight feet radius, Bradley is now the Kings Astronomer at Greenwich & Succeeds Halley

This of the aberration of the fixed Starrs which was first Discovered by Bradley, will occasion two new columns hereafter in all Catalogues of the Starrs viz a column of the Longitude of the Sun when the Aberration is nothing, & another column of the greatest aberration of the Starr, the first hint that I ever mett with of this was in Gardners Surveying which you have, & afterwards I mett with. Bradleys account of it in the Philosophical transactions, how by accident he discovered it by a Sector made by Graham which was to be Depended on within two Seconds, & as he was so Lucky as first to Discover it So he accounted for the reason of it viz the Earths velocity in its orbit compared with the velocity of Light—I am

Sir

Your most humble Servt

JAS. ALEXANDER.

Cadwallader Colden to Samuel Johnson

[Copy]

Sept^r 3^d 1745

S^r

I am much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken in examining the Introduction to Fluxions By the Method you have taken you show that you perfectly understand my sense of the matter and as you can observe no falsehood in the Principles or error in the deduction I may conclude it is right & that without assuming much to my self when every mathematican before me since the invention of the method has agreed

in the same thing On the contrary it might look like presumption to say that the greatest men have all continued blundering in their own science & that these blunders should allwise discover the truth Your only objection is that the Doctrine of Fluxions cannot subsist with D^r Berkely's principles that therefore the one or the other must be false If it be really inconsistent with his principles (which I know not that it is for I do not understand them) this inconsistency will give a strong prejudice to his Doctrine & what you observe that while you read his books you know not where to fix for a fallacy in his reasonings but after you have laid his books aside all his notions seem to be mere Chimera's gives a strong suspicion of a sophism for it is just in this manner that the mind is affected by sophisms. As to what you observe that all our Ideas must be finite & must bear some proportion to each other it may be necessary to observe the different senses that word idea is taken in for sometimes it is taken for the picture or representation of any thing which we have receiv'd from our senses & in this sense certainly all our Ideas are finite at other times it is taken in a more large sense for any kind of Conception we form or perception we have of anything or proposition & I think that an infinite difference must necessarily be suppos'd in these conceptions For example From the conception we have of God & of a creature we necessarily conclude there must be an infinite difference so Likewise between the Conceptions we have of time & eternity Perhaps this Distinction between Ideas in the Strict sense & conceptions or perceptions of the mind in the large sense may lead to discover the Bishops Step in his Deduction for if I remember right he does not distinguish them tho they be essentially different & the effects of essentially different agents Whether the Bishop thinks that God & eternity exists only in the mind as he supposes that time & all his creatures do I know not or whether we can conceive the mind otherwise than infinite when we suppose there is no space without it I dare not suppose because this would lead to a kind of spinosism &

therefor as I said before I do not understand what the Bishop would prove I shall detain you no longer than to repeat my thanks for the trouble you have taken & to assure you that when I know how to serve you I will cheerfully do it & in the mean time would gladly continue a correspondence with you

Cadwallader Colden to Samuel Johnson

[Copy]

Sept^r 3^d 1745

S^r

I thank you heartily for the trouble you have taken to procure me the accounts of the cure of a Cancer by the Pokeweed & of the Yaws by Tar Water. My design in desiring it was to make the knowledge of such beneficial medecines more general as well as for my own private benefite & for this reason I have thoughts of publishing them in some shape or other But as inducement for further trial of their Virtue can only depend on the opinion y^e readers have of the Veracity & Judgement of the Relator's it may seem necessary to give the names of the persons through whose hands the Account passes for according to their Characters the evidence will appear stronger or Weaker And when one advises another to trust his health or his life to any method it seems incumbent to give him all the evidence you can for such confidence for in a Cancer for example by following any method that proves unsuccessfull the distemper advances in the mean time so fast that another method of cure which might have been successfull comes too late Please then to tell me whether I may mention your name & your opinion of the Veracity of the persons who relate the Facts It would be an advantage to have some more Histories to confirm the evidence of the Virtue of these Medecines & it seems more may be got.

I give you the trouble of my letter to M^r Prince in

return to his favour & leave it open to you that you may see the only answer I can give to the single objection he made to the Introduction to Fluxions As to what you observe of the method of Proximation I must allow there is some similitude to that of Fluxions but then there is this difference that in approximation the mind observes that the solution after all that can be don is not perfect tho it come nearer & nearer to the truth it is never perfectly true After a 1000 corrections it will still admit of an amendment but by the method of Fluxions it is brought the nearest the truth possible at one Operation & the minds clearly sees that no further correction is possible. As to the Publishing of the Introduction to Fluxions I am willing to contribute every thing in my power for the publick benefit as the advancement of every kind of knowlege certainly is And I believe there would be no difficulty from the want of Types because the printers can make them but I am affray'd whatever you or two or three more may think of the use of printing it it would not prove beneficial to the printer but otherwise for I doubt if 20 copies would sell I sent you the Reflections on Tar Water printed by them

Proclamation of Gov. George Clinton

By his Excellency The Honb^{le} George Clinton Esq^r
Captⁿ General and Governour in Chief of the province
of New York and Territories thereon depending in America
Vice Admiral of the Same and Vice Admiral of the
Red Squadron of his Majesties fleet.

A PROCLAMATION

Prohibiting all Traffick and Correspondence between his
Majesties Subjects of this province and all Indians in
League with the French.

WHEREAS it has been Credibly Represented to me that
the Indians of Canada under Colour and pretence of a
Treaty of Neutrality Concluded between them and the

Nations of Indians in the British Interest have hitherto during the present Warr with the French had frequent Traffick Intercourse and Correspondence with his Mat^{ies} Subjects of the County of Albany whereby the Enemy are not only Supplied with several Species of Goods and Merchandizes which (as things are Circumstanced at Present) they Could not otherwise procure But by their Indians haveing free Access to the City of Albany and by their passing and Repassing throught our Frontiers into the Heart of the Country without Control or Interruption, they have thereby also frequent and Constant Opportunitys of Viewing our Scituation and Actions and of Conveying Intelligence to the Enemy when at the Same time Such Indians as the French suppose to be Attached to the British Interest are not Suffered to Travel farther Towards Canada Then to the Fort at Crown point (And whereas it has Likewise been Represented that the French Indians have Lately been prevailed upon by the Governour of Canada to take up the Hatchet against his Majesties Subjects Their form of a Declaration of Warr) and have Accordingly Commenced Hostilitys and Committed Several Murders and Barbaritys upon the Frontiers of New England which is a Notorious Breach of Faith and Violation of the Treaty of Neutrality they have Speciously pretended to engage themselves in, by the Tenor whereof it was Stipulated that none of the Tribes in the British or French Interest Sho'd Intermeddle in the present Warr Between the Two Crowns.

I have therefore thought fitt by and With the Advice of his Majesties Council to Issue this proclamation hereby Strictly enjoyning all his Mat^{ies} Subjects within this province from Carrying on any kind of Traffick or dealings or holding any Sort of Correspondence with the Indians of Canada or any Indians in League with the French or Attached to their Interest and Likewise forewarning and prohibiting them from Harbouring entertaining or giving any Countenance or protection to their persons as they will Answer the Contrary at their peril

by Incurring his Mat^{ies} highest displeasure and Resentment and be prosecuted with the Utmost Rigour of the Law.

Given &c^a under my hand & Seal at Arms in New York This 5 day of Sep^t in the 19 year of His Majestys Reign and in The Year of our Lord 1745
By his Exc^y Command

John Mitchell to Benjamin Franklin

Sir

I was surprised to see yours of Jun. 15th come to my hands only by last Post. What I then received by it from D^r Colden, I suppose I owe to you; for which I am sorry I can make no other acknowledgement but thanks. I perceive likewise, that you are desirous (if I am not mistaken), that the small Paper I left with you on the yellow fever should come forth. I was highly delighted to see so good an opportunity any one might have to oblige the publick, & promote the arts of Sciences, as your Press affords; better than I expected to have found in our new world. I look upon myself obliged, thro' gratitude to you, as well as the justice due to your laudable industry & improvements in that way, to encourage your press as much as I can, The Debt likewise which we all owe to the publick; would make me do what I could to discharge it. But for many very good reasons, I can do neither at present. My health is so impaired by this summer & fall, that I am not able to follow my own necessary calling. Since the last of June I have been afflicted with a Diarrhea several times, a slow hectic, with spitting of Blood, & troublesome Piles: I had no sooner got over these, (When our weather began to break in y^e fall, w^t Rains & Easterly winds) than I was seized with an Intermittent fever, the origin & source of all my disorders.—with this I was afflicted, when I received yours, & as I kept the house, I have been more

prolix in what I have wrote, having nothing else to amuse me, which is the reason, why I have said so little in so many words; which I hope Dr Colden & you will excuse.

I am so farr from being able to come to Philadelphia this fall again, as you kindly invite me, that I was not able to go to the upper parts of our own Countrey, as I had appointed & firmly resolved, to avoid what I expected in the fall, & have accordingly met with. But my bad state of health puts me under a necessity of going to England very soon, or of loosing my life. I shall let you hear from me before I go; which I am afraid will not be before next Spring, but it must be before Summer or never. What I shall do there or afterwards, I am not determined, nor can I be, 'till I see what my bad State of health is likely to come to.

As for the small piece on the Yellow fever in your hands, you know I left it to be transmitted to Dr Colden, since we were disappointed of seeing him. But lest I might seem to refuse others any benefit that might be reaped from it (if there is any) I consented, that your Physicians might see it. But it is by no means fit to be printed by itself, nor never was intended to be. It contains only a brief account of some things that I thought might be improvements on this Disease, or at least more clearly shown than is common to be met with, Especially the Dissection of the bodies that dyed of it, for which alone it was wrote, as that is not any where to be met with, as far as I know. It was wrote to a master of the art (like compendious Institutes, extracted from a much longer account) to whom I thought Explnations might be as impertinent, as they are necessary for others, Especially among us. Had I wrote it for (the generality at least of) your Readers, what I have herein left out, would be most necessary to have insisted upon, & what is herein contained ought to be more fully explained. You know very well, this would be necessary all over America, as far as I can perceive at least—My friends in Scotland (to whom I first sent it) desired me to let them print it by itself; but Mr Monro & Dr Clarke

at Edin^r were of opinion, that in that manner it could not miss to perish (which they were pleased to say it was a pity it should) among the many other little pieces of that sort, which daily come out. They desired me to preserve it by a fuller account of the other things relating to the Disease. But I laid down all thoughts of that, when I first extracted these observations from the others I had made, not out of any discommendable design I hope. My views then were to inform myself as well as to qualify myself to inform others (if any desired such information, which very few, too few among us so much as do) of the nature & Cure of our other popular Maladies, as well as this; as well as of the nature & effects of our Climate, minerals, vegetables & animals &c. With these pursuits I was busied at some times, when this yellow fever came in my way; And I thought it much better to go on with them, than suffer myself to be interrupted with this; hoping I might preserve my account of it in a Natural & Medical History of my Countrey; for which I have kept Journals of observations for many years, but left them all off, the beginning of this month, & when or if ever, I shall be able to begin them again, He only knows who disposes of all things—But still I should be glad of your information about any of these things, for which reason I mention them to you & Dr Colden; & in return you may command any thing from me, hoping you will use it as a friend, as you see I take you to be, by being so very plain with you. I am fond and ambitious of corresponding w^t all candid & ingenious Persons about these things I here mention, as I find their Information to be necessary, and am as willing & ready to give them the best accounts of things I can, in return. But you must excuse my not publishing any thing yet a while. I think this world is pestered with this Itch of many to appear in print, which makes many so little regarded that do. Authors ought to be Masters not only of the particular subject, but of the whole art, they undertake to instruct the world in, & when they are—*Nonum prematur in annum*, saies Horace.

What is enclosed suppose wrote equally to yourself as to D^r Colden, for whom it is directed, & persist to oblige

Sir

your very humble Serv^{tt}

JOHN MITCHELL

Urbanna, Sept^r 12th 1745

P. S.

I wrote for my baggs by M^r Miron, the first opportunity I had to send for them. if you have any pray send them, they are not of great value. I enclosed one to M^r Bartram.

The enclosed &c. are only for your perusal & D^r Colden's as well as any thing else I write to you

J: M;

[Indorsed]

For

M^r B: FRANKLIN

From James Alexander

NEWYORK Sep^r 22^d 1745

D^r Sir

I returned from Amboy on Wednesday Last where I had been for ten days & Since have rec^d two from you the one of 13th instant the other without date.

Your Letters therin to M^r Brown I shall by the post tomorrow Send to him

M^r Brown by his Last wrote me that his wife died of a Consumption on the first of August Last, which I am heartyly Sorry to hear, & by Letter now Condole him on that occasion.

Its certainly very melancholy to think of the Sick-ness here & the more So to be in the midle of it & to see your neighbours well one day & in a few days after carried to the grave—Tadd was well & at Stephen Delanceys funeral, & was yesterday buried

My Daughter Bettie was on the 6th instant taken with

a pain in her head, Sore throat & Stiffness in her neck which we attributed to Cold, She had got, Doctor Dubois gave her Some Medicines, which abated these pains removed her fever as he thought & she Sat up again on the 9th when I went to Amboy, but two days after she was taken very ill & my wife desired Doctor Dubois to call another Phisitian to his assistance & he chose Dr Fisher who together have attended her ever since, They agreed that it was the distemper reigning in town. She was brought Extremely Low with it So that Little hopes was Left of her Life. She being delirious for many days on Monday last her fever abated & they began to have hopes of her She seems to mend but Slowly one day a litle better & another day worse & Delirious, So that it Seems to be coming to an intermitting fever On Tuesday last I rec^d a Letter from my wife by the post of Betsies condition, what the Doctor's Said & that all the family were going out & into her room, which made me resolve to come the next day without haveing finished the business I went upon fearing many of the rest of the family would be Seized with the Same Distemper, but thank God we have hitherto Escaped, whether Tarr water has preserved us I cannot Say, but every one of the family drinks it plentifully every night before going to bed

possibly had we done So before Betsie was taken ill, it might have prevented it. But while I was at Amboy in August the family had disused it by reason, that after the water had Stood on the tarr for 48 hours they found it Sour & not drinkable & being so served three or four times they gave it over, upon my return, I had water Set on tarr again with a Clean new pott, & that time it was pretty good, the next time Sour, the next time also Sour, believing the fault must have been in the tarr, which till then we had only bought by the quart at a litle Shop nearby, about that time Betsie was taken ill, I then Sent to find a barrell of Albany tarr, & bought one, on viewing the top of it I found a good deal of water & other nasty Stuff part of which I powered off—& tapped it

at the head about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the head from the bottom, believing that what was heavier than the tarr had Sunk to the bottom & what nastyness was Lighter Swam a top, & So drew the tarr from the place tapped & Sett it & had Excellent tarr water with a full fine flavour, & the water Scarcely discoloured & So have had Excellent tarr water ever Since & So agreeable that my children Say they Like it better than Tea, & every night we Drink a Gallon of it

I Suppose from the childrens talking of the goodness of this tarr water, Betsie would have Some of it I asked Doctor Dubois, if I might Comply with her desire. Seeing She even dreamt of it & talkt of it in her delirium, he Consented Last night & she had a tea Cup full a litle warmer than milk, She Says She is better this morning than she has been once & Slept well Last night

I Enquired into the way of Selling the tarr by the quart & hear they take out the head of the barrell & Set it on End & always take it out of the top which with the foulness of the top of the barrell I bought Explains fully how our tarr water came to be sour which was bought by the quart, as part of that Sour nasty Stuff probably was mixt with it when the tarr water was Sour possibly other persons haveing their tarr water Sour & ill Coloured as I so often had, has discouraged them from the use of it,

herewithe as you desire I Send you your papers on Gravitation, & shall be glad to See them again with the Difficulties Cleared up

I am obliged to you for the other hints in yours, I shall be glad to See you publish your thoughts on the pokeweed, I shall make Enquiry for Habs Expirements on Tarr water—I hope speedily to have Some time to think of the Lands at Newburgh—with my best respects to M^{rs} Colden & all your family I remain

D^r Sir

Your most humble Servt

JA. ALEXANDER

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
Coldenham

*Scientific Note in Colden's Handwriting on back of
Alexander's Letter.*

What distinguishes this agent from all others is this that it receives the manner of Acting of any other material agent & in its reaction exerts its force in the same manner that the agent does & continues the Action to a distance in the same direction as a medium but likewise in the contrary direction to that in which it receiv'd the action from which it receives the impression or action Now this Power must be that of an Agent essentially different from the resisting Agent for the Power of the resisting agent is exerted in opposing or resisting the Action of every other agent but every part of this power no wise lessens reaction of the other receives (of every other power) & communicates the Action to all its contiguous parts in a manner which shall hereafter be more fully explain'd It must likewise be different from the moving power for the moving power acts only in one direction & opposes the Action of the other powers in one direction more than another but this receives the Action of the other powers equally in all directions & reacts equally in all directions & that of receiving the Action & reacting or reflecting in the opposite direction is what chiefly distinguishes. Every power receives the Action of any other Power the receiving is common to all The resisting power lessens the motion in the moving & the moving communicates a degree of Motion to the resisting but neither of them react or communicate the Action which they receiv'd equally in all directions in a contrary direction as well as in a direct. The peculiar Power of this Agent consists in its power of receiving & reacting or reflecting any kind of Action & in this its agency chiefly consists & as the manner of its receiving the Action & reacting in continuing the action to die by the same manner cannot be conceiv'd but by conceiving it as a reacting of parts every one of which exerts its reactive force as it were in lines tending every way from the center of every part towards the surface. It

From John Bartram

october y^e 4th 1745

Dear & esteemed friend

I received thy kind letter of september y^e 13th since which I have received many letters from London Holland & Petersburg some containing Matters of friendship other orders for seeds & curiosities others curious remarks & usefull instructions of which those of Doctor Gronovius is very curious I wish thee could see them; I would send thee a Coppy of them; if I could write it over exact: but as it is so mixed with Latin I cant read many of his words. altho I can understand his English pretty well: if I could meet with safe conveyance I should be ready to send thee y^e Original which I value much—Doctor Fothergill hath sent me A booke of y^e enquiries of Lincom Spaw with large & curious directions & A box of spirits, oils shyrops & Solutions for y^e tryal of all medicinal springs that comes under my observation in my travels & to know what mineral thay are most empregnated with he is pleased to say that he believes, from an observation that I sent him, upon his request, above A year ago, that I am y^e most capable to manage such an undertaking of any; he uses many arguments to engage me to enter into it & to make dilligent inquiry therein, But y^e main spring of motion stil hath not its proper temper but he saith he is not without hopes that he can engage some to assist him to remedy that defect, for thee may easily believe that it will take upp A deal of time to make all those tryals that is requisit to come to A compleat judgment of y^e different qualities of many mineral waters;

I received many letters that came with Captain Bream But I saw none directed to thee nor thy name mentioned in any of them. If I had I should given thee an account of it by y^e first Post; I find thy name mentioned in Gronovius letter after this manner—in April Last year I hath send for Dr Colden an answer to his characters, & besides send y^e fundamenta Botanica: florum Virginica, & index

lapidum: and in November of y^e year 1743 I hath send y^e same things, but to my great sorrow I suspect that by y^e uncarefulness of A friend of mine y^e last mentioned is lost However y^e first I hope is come to his hand being by the favour of Mr. Van Ingen, the principal Cornchanler in this town recommended to Mr. Hope at Rotterdam, Two or three pages following I find this Paragraph Pray you will so good at an occation to acquaint Dr. Colden of what I wrote before & that Mr. Collinson wrote to me in A letter dated y^e 24th of March that he send to me by Mr. Hawkins A packed from Dr. Colden which as soon as I have received I shall [torn] as speedy an answer as possible.

I am obliged to thee for y^e account of doctor Knights extrordinary discovery of y^e magnetick power of steel & improvment upon y^e loadstone in return of which kindness I here send A copy of A Paragraph or two out of A letter from Dr. Ginelin Petersburg october y^e 13th 1744 I cant tel for what reason y^e Government does not Publish y^e expedition from Kamshatka to discover ye Eastern Coast of America. Notwithstanding all my endeavours I cant learn y^e Peticulars of this voyage neither can learn in what latitude where it was they landed on y^e american shore but I know for certain is that our ships discovered America two weeks after thay Left Kamshatka toward y^e east & landed on A Coast unknown to other Europeans thay searched this Continent for A few days after that they returned to Kamshatka y^e expedition is kept secret by y^e order of y^e senate,—Have we not some reason to think from this account that this Surprising & Politick people who hath conquered & fortified y^e chief passages from Petersburg to y^e eastern sea hath an intention to engross to them selves y^e trade of y^e northwest part of america & perhaps y^e spanish coast of y^e south Sea But suppose thay have discovered y^e supposed straights of Anian will not our Britans be too late—suppose thay should find A passage from Button Bay thro to that Straight—I find by my corespondents in Europe that thay have been informed of our Phylosophycal Society &

have great expectation of fine accounts therefrom tho I durst not so much as mention it to my correspondents for fear it should turn out but poorly; but I find the mentioned to Collinson. hee to Catesby, & hee to Gronovius, which was to him from Claton. these accounts I showed to franklin & he layeth y^e blame on us; & Dr Bond Saith Ben. Franklin is in fault; however wee three talks of carrying it on with more dilligence then ever which we may very easily do if we could but exchange y^e time that is spent in y^e Club, Chess & Coffee House for y^e Curious amusements of natural observations—I inclose seeds of y^e sawrurus & star grass; I want some good seed of y^e arborvita I long to have it in my garden & y^e paper birch which grows on y^e katts kill mountains whose seed is shed 6 weeks ago.

Dear friend with Salutes of kind love to thee & family I rest thy Real friend

JOHN BARTRAM

[Indorsed]

For
Dr CADWALLADER COLDEN
These

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD Octob^r 5 1745

S^r

Having this convenient Opportunity I make my Acknowledgments to you for your two kind Letters of July 12, & Sept^r 3. inclosing one to M^r Prince. Your Reflexions on the Bp^s Tract of Tar Water, for which I also thank you, I purpose to Send him, & with it, (if I can find time to transcribe it,) your Introduction to Fluxions, if I receive it time enough from D^r Osborn, who has not yet returned it to me.—I am pleased with your Reflexions on Tar water: There are many Instances of its having done Service in these parts: I have the promise of Some Facts to Send you—I think I told you of the Cure of a Negro boy, who Still continues perfectly well, & of the Rev^d M^r

Beach whose Case Seems to be exactly the Same with that of the Bp himself.—As to the Veracity of those Histories of the Cure of y^e Cancer &c. Your Observations are very just,—& I give you liberty very freely to mention my name in attestation to the Characters of those that relate them.— Capt Dickerman I knew to be a very honest Man having many years ago lived a year at his House, & D^r Hubbard who took the Relation from his mouth, is an ingenious, Gentleman with whom I have a particular Friendship, & a person of undoubted Truth & Hon^r.—As to the woman I never knew her, but often heard of the Case: Her brother who took the Account is a near Neighbour whose veracity was nev.^r called in Question.—If I can Send any other well attested Instances I shall gladly gratifie your laudable & benevolent Disposition to be useful to mankind by procuruing & Sending them——

As to M^r. Prince he is not here to answer for himself, (being, gone to Cape Bretton, recommended to Commodore Warren, & will probably go from thence to England for Orders, but I shall Send your Letter to him.) nor am I well qualified to answer for him.—I would only beg leave to make a Short Remark on the Distinction between an Idea & a notion or Conception of y^e mind which is very Just & made by y^e Bp himself; your not observing which convinces me that you did not, (as the Case was with me at first,) give so exact an attention to what he Says, as to enter thoroughly into his Meaning.—M^r Lock defines & uses the term *Idea* for any immediate Object of the Mind in Thinking; The Bp more justly confines it only to the Objects of Sense & Imagination, & ever uses the term *Notion* or *Conception* when he speaks of things purely Intellectual, & therefore allows that we have properly Speaking no *Idea* of God or of any Intelligent Beings tho we may be Said to have a *Notion* or *Conception* of them.—nor does the Bp define the Term *Idea* in his Sense as you do, viz a *Picture* or *Representation* of anything we receive from our Senses. On the Contrary he takes what you call *pictures* of things to be the very things them-

selves, & that we do vainly & without any ground imagine any things intervening between the Divine Mind & ours, whereof our Ideas, of Sense & imagination, are the supposed pictures.—The Ideas of Imagination may indeed be called pictures of the Ideas of Sense, but he can have no notion of any Original whereof that idea or objects or of Sense, (for Instance which we call a Rose) can be Said to be a picture.—You allow in this Sense all our Ideas are finite.—Quære, How then can they consist of infinite parts?—& Whether the Object the Mind is Employed about in the Arithmetic of Infinities be not an object of Sense or Imagination, & not of pure Intellect? The Objects of pure Intellect, Spirit, God, Mind, Soul, Reflexion, Volition, Liberty, Virtue, &c. are in his Sense, *toto Cælo*, different things from Ideas of Sense or Imagination, whereof however he allows we may have clear & distinct *Conceptions* or *Notions* tho' not Ideas?—It therefore never entered into the Bp's Tho'ts to imagine if God or created Spirits existed only in our Minds as Ideas do, as your *quere* imports, or that our Minds are infinite; nor can any Such deductions be made from any thing he Says.—The Being of God i. e. a Being of Infinite Intelligence & Activity existing without our Minds & independent of them or any thing else, we infer by necessary Deduction of Reason from the Objects of Sense & our own Existence & powers but we have no other Way of Conceiving of him but by Substitution of powers & properties we are conscious of in our Selves, & removing from them all Tho'ts of any dependence Limitation or Imperfection—& so proportionably of other inferiour Minds.

pardon me S^r my pen has been running at a Strange Rate much further than I intended when I begun.—However, perhaps these hasty hints pursued closely may a little Serve to clear up the Difference between you & y^e Bp which I imagine is in a great measure owing to your using the same words in different Senses & not attending to each others meaning.

I shall be very glad to See your attempt to improve upon S^r Isaac's Principia & proud of the Favour; not

that I am qualified to examine it, but Shall hope to learn Something from it.—I doubt not but Improvements may be made from the noble Foundations he has laid, as has lately been done by one Lowman upon the Key he has given y^e world for understanding the prophesies & to how much better purpose have chronology & antiquity been studied since he has turned the thoughts of men of Leisure & Learning that way? & I believe in Several things he has been corrected as well as improved upon.—One M^r Hutchinsons a Lay Gentleman has of late Surprized y^e world with a new System of Philosophy & Theology in which he is said to have amended & even confuted Some things in S^r Isaac's System.—The Titles of his Books are, 1 Moses principia. 2—And Essay towards a Natural History of the Bible.—3 Moses Sine principio.—4, A New Account of the Confusion of Tongues & the names & attributes of the Trinity of the Gentiles.—5, a Treatise of power essential & mechanical.—These peices I have not read, but I have read an Abridgm^t of his Doctrine published lately by my L^d Forbes, L^d president of Scotland intitl'd *Thot's on Religion Natural & Reveal'd* wherein he has Set them in an agreeable Light & earnestly recommended the Study of them to all Gentlemen of Leisure Capacity & Learning.—His Book is a Small pocket Volume—I doubt I have very much tired your patience already: However what if I should venture a little further, & for once in a way tire it quite down?

M^r Hutchinson undertakes to demonstrate the following principles, as I have memoriter taken a Sketch of them from Lord Forbes.

1. That besides the *gross Bodies* of the planets, & their Contents & Inhabitants, God created a vast infinitely *subtil Fluid*, whereof the Sun is the grand Reservoir & Sourse, where it is in the Condition of *Fire*: from whence it proceeds in a perpetual Emanation to the utmost Bounds of this System in the Condition of *Light*; & from thence it returns condensed in the Condition of *Air* or *Spirit* & being melted down at the Sun is again returned in *Light* &c.

2. That from this perpetual Circulation of this vast Fluid, in the Several Conditions of *Fire Light & Air*, the Rotation of the Orbs, both Annual and Diurnal may be accounted for, with all the Phænomena in each Globe, without having recourse to S^r Isaac's Gravity or Attraction, projection &c.—and this he makes appear both from the Letter of Moses & from Experimental Philosophy.

3. That this Glorious *System* or Machine was designed, not only for our Subsistence & Comfort, but moreover for a Grand Theatre wherein we should behold the D E I T Y displaying his Infinite Wisdom; power & Goodness & thence deduce our Duty to him, our selves & one another.—But however, That Mankind in their first Condition, must necessarily have needed Instruction in Order to Understand these things, which were indeed of the utmost Importance to them: & accordingly, that they were taught *Language, philosophy & Religion* by immediate Conversation with the Deity in a visible Form, whose Goodness was Such that it could not fail to instruct them in what so nearly concerned their Happiness.

4. That as Things, *Spiritual* & Intellectual can no otherwise be taught us or known by us in our present Condition than by *Emblems* taken from Sensible Things, it must Reasonably be thought that this method was used by the Deity in teaching our first parents; and that the Garden of *Eden* it self by the Range of it; Trees & the properties of the Creatures in it, might be designed for such an Emblem or means of instruction; & the above mentioned infinite Fluid [balance of letter missing]

From James Alexander

NEWYORK October 6th

1745

Dear Sir

I have yours of September 27th:—the Distemper in this place I thank God is much abated, few being taken

with it Since the cool weather came in & these favourably—I was in hopes that Tarrwater would have preserved the rest of my family from the Distemper, but I was mistaken, for on Wednesday the 25th of September my Daughter Katharine (who had till then attended my Daughter Bettie) was taken ill, upon it She drank tarr water warmed very plentifully but the fever continued to Encrease, the Doctor recommended tarr water Sack whey or sage tea Warm, but everything was nauseous to her but tarr water, on Thursday night She drank near four quarts of it, on Fryday morning I found the fever very high & she Complained grievously of her head, the Doctor then proposed to Let Some blood which I thought was proper, he bled her & which bleeding She Said She found her head grow easier & Easier, but a fainting fitt came on her, & he Stopt the bleeding having taken from her about a pint & a half, her head afterwards was much Easier her fever Lower, but she complained of Sickness at her Stomack more than before—On Saturday she was Easier everyway on Sunday night She bled at the nose & on Monday the pain in the head & Stomack almost gone & Litle fever but She then Complained of a pain in her belly more than before but got a little Stomack to Eat, by Degrees the pain of her belly Decreased, & she has got a good Stomack & Sits up in her room all day, & is already Stronger than Betty, who mends fast too, but Betty was so weakened that She can Scarcely walk alone as yet.

Tho Tarr water did not prevent Kittie from takeing the Distemper, yet possibly it has been a means of her so Speedy getting over it—her bleeding at the nose after haveing bled so plentifully before, Shows also that when the fever is high bleeding is proper—Betty's fever was never near So high as Kitties wherefore she was not bled—I thank God the rest of the family have Escaped the Distemper—we all Continue to use tarr water plentifully

I have the London Magazines, which are Esteemed better than the Gentlemans, in the London Magazine for june 1744 theres a Letter concerning tarr water in

what he Says—"In acute cases as fevers of all kinds it
 "must be Drunk warm in bed in great quantity, perhaps a
 "pint every hour, till the patient be relieved, which I
 "have known to work Surprizeing cures"

my Daughter Kittie came near up to this prescrip-
 tion, & yet the fever continued to Encrease till she was
 bled

I shall with a great deal of pleasure take all the pains
 in my power to advise M^r Delancey if he applies to me—
 I am D^r Sir

[Indorsed]

Your most humble Servant

To
 Cadwallader Colden, Esq^r
 Coldingham

JA: ALEXANDER

PROPOSITIONS made by his
 Excellency the Hon^{ble} George
 Clinton Esq^r Captain General and
 Governor in Chief of the province
 of New York &c^a to five of the six
 united Nations of Indians viz^t The
 Maquas Oneydes Onondages Cay-
 ouges & Tuscaroroës.

At Albany the 10th day of October 1745

Present

His Excellency
 Philip Livingston
 Daniel Horsmanden
 Joseph Murray
 John Rutherford

Esq^{rs} of the Council

The Commiss^{rs} from the Governments of the Masschusets
 bay and Connecticut

The Commissioners for Indian Affairs

The Mayor and Corporation of Albany And Several Gen-
 tlemen attending his Excellency & the severall Com-
 miss^{rs} upon this Occasion

His Excellency addressed himself to the Indians as
 follo^{eth}

BRETHREN

Here are present upon the Occasion of this Interview Commissioners from the Governments of the Massachusetts bay & Connecticut, convened with me on the same Righteous Intention of renewing, brightening, and Strengthening the Covenant Chain, which has tyed You and His Britanick Majesty's several Colonies on this Continent, in the firmest Engagements to each other, for supporting, and maintaining our Common Cause.

We are glad to See so many of our Brethren, and we bid you wellcome here, at the same time that Wee heartily Condole the Absence of our Brethren the Seneckes, and their Calamitys, which have Occasioned it, may the Almighty comfort them under their grievous Afflictions and soon wipe off all Tears from their Eyes.—

We do with you our Brethren and with you as their Representatives, Ratifye, confirm and establish all former Engagements—entered into by us, and our Brethren of the six united Nations, and assure you, that We shall ever hold them inviolable, and we doubt not of the same for you

A Belt—

BRETHREN

The Rumour which the last Winter gave an Alarm to our Brethren the maquas, and was from thence spread to the other Nations, now appears to have been without foundation, And I cannot help observing on this Occasion, that you ought not for the future to Suffer any such idle Tales to be raised or propagated among you, as they not only tend to Separate your and our Affections each from the other, but also to make us Jealous of our own people without sufficient grounds for it.

A String of Wampum

BRETHREN

It must be further observed to you, that we hear several of the Chiefs and other of our Brethren of the six Nations, have Contrary to our Inclinations, and against our Express advice had an Interview with the Governor of Canada this Summer at Montreal.

And that your pretence for holding this Correspond-

ence with our declared Enemys was for the publick Good, and the preservaton of the House at Oswego.

To tell the Governor of Canada, that they must not make any attack or attempt upon that place, for that our Brethren are resolved to defend it, and that it should remain a place of peace and Trade.

You declared that your Intent was good, and that the Governor of Canada should never prevail upon you in any thing hurtfull to your Brethren the English, who, you said, You knew did not like your going thither; that yet upon your return from thence, your Brother the Governor of New York, should know all that passed between you and the Governor of Canada.

We will tell our Brethren what we hear was done, whilst they were with the Governor of Canada, and we Expect the whole truth from them according to their promise, and whether what we hear is true or not.

We hear that whilst our Brethren were with the Governor of Canada, the French Indians took up the Hatchet against the English, which we believe to be true, for reasons You shall hear by and by, and thereby the Treaty of Neutrality concluded between you and them is become vain.

We hear likewise that our Brethren of the six united Nations there present so far prevailed upon by our Enemys the french, as to accept of the Hatchet upon Condition to carry it home to their Castles to deliberate upon, and then to return the Governor of Canada their answer; which we cannot believe to be true, till we have it from our Brethrens own Mouth.—

We expect a full and plain Answer from our Brethren Concerning these matters, that the way may be cleared for wiping of all Stains from the Covenant Chain, and that we may preserve it bright firm and Inviolable as long as the Sun shall shine.

A Belt——

BRETHREN

We must now acquaint you of something relating to the War, the Success of his Majesty's Arms against the

french in this part of the World, and the Rise and occasion of our Attacks upon the Enemy in this Quarter.

When you were here Last Summer you were told that War was declared between the Crowns of Great Britain and france; the Events that have since happened are too numerous to relate particularly.

His Majestys Subjects in this Country, lay still the last summer without attempting any thing against the French Settlements, but the French first Attacked and destroyed a Small place belonging to us Called Cansa about twenty five Leagues from Cape Breton.

Afterwards they laid seige to Annapolis Royal; but therein they proved Unsuccessfull.

They then agreed to make another Tryal for that place the next Spring, and in the mean time they sent to France hoping to Obtain some of the Kings Ships to facilitate the Reduction of it.

They having proceeded thus far Mr Shirley Governor of Massachusets bay thought it high time to do something to curb the Insolence of that haughty people, and did therefore raise a Small Army which was Joined by a Number of Men from the Goverments of Connecticutt and new Hampshire, and sent them early Last Spring against Louisburg.

They were likewise Joined by a number of His Majestys Ships of War, and after about seven weeks Seige, that Important, and Strong fortified place was through the Goodness of Divine providence delivered up to our Forces.

Whereupon the Rest of the Inhabitants of the Island of Cape Breton, together with those that were Settled in parts adjacent surrendered themselves Prisoners to the English.

And during the Seige, and since, many French Ships were taken and Divers of them of great Value, and the design of the French against Annapolis was frustrated.

We have in this part of the Country Lain stil, both the Last Summer and this, hoping that our Neighbours

in Canada would either be quiet, or carry on the War in a Manly and Christian like manner.

And to induce them thereto, a Message was sent from this place to the Governor of Canada the Last Summer, by which he was assured that if he should revive their former Vile practice of treating His Majesty's Subjects Inhumanly, the Several Governours together with the six Nations, would Join and make reprisals on them.

And at the same time you publicly declared "That if any of his Majestys Subjects in any of His Governments should be killed by any Indians, You would immediately Join in the War against them and the French."

You likewise sent your delegates last summer to the Eastern Indians to warn them not to engage in the War against the English, threatning them in Case they should do so.

Notwithstanding these things divers hostilities have been Committed.

Some Months ago the Eastern Indians who had formerly Acknowledged their Subjection to the Crown of Great Britain Entered into Solemn Engagements with the Kings Subjects, and had been since treated by them with Great kindness.

But at the Instigation of the French they have lately killed One English man, and also great Numbers of Horses and Catle, burnt a Saw Mill and many Dwelling Houses, and attacked an English Garrison.

Notwithstanding such Outrageous Insults the Governor of Massachusetts bay was so tender of them, that he resented it no further then to send a Message to them demanding the delivery of the Murderers as they would avoid the Consequences of their Neglect.

This proposal was rejected by them, and since that time they have killed two or three others, whereupon the Governor of the Massachusetts bay declared War against them.

And We are Informed the English have lately killed two of them and taken another prisoner.

About three Months since some of the Canada In-

dians killed two English men near Connecticut River, the body of one of them was treated in a most Barberous manner, by which they left a Hatchet of War, thereby daring us to take it up, and Return it.

There has likewise been several other party's that have attempted to destroy his Majestys Subjects of New England, but have been hitherto prevented.

These facts plainly Shew, that the French are still acted by the same Spirit, that they were formerly Governed by, and they seem never pleased but when they are at War, either with the English or some of the Tribes of Indians, and if they had it in their power they would doubtless destroy all about them.

It is likewise Evident that the most Solemn and Sacred Engagements are broken through by those Indians that have Committed the late Murders.

That Belts of Wampum will not bind them to the performance of their promises.

That We are Slighted and you Condemned, as though they thought You not Worthy to be Regarded.

The Six nations were formerly esteemed powerfull, and your Neighbouring Tribes stood in fear of you.

But now, the French and their Indians by the Little Regard they have to your Threatnings, or to the Covenants they have made with you, do Declare that they think you do not Intend to perform what you have threatned, or that they do not fear your Displeasure both which do reflect equal dishonour upon you.

It is high time for us and You to exert ourselves, and Vindicate our Honour, and although it is well known, that we delight not in the Distruction of our Fellow Creatures, But have Chosen Rather to Suffer ourselves to be abused, yet we Cannot think ourselves obliged any longer to bear their Insults and evil Treatment.

Therefore since nither our peaceable Disposition, nor Examples nor any methods we have been able to Use, have been Sufficient to prevail upon them to forbear their barberous Treatment of us, but they will force our Resentments In the Name of God we are resolved

not only to Defend ourselves, but by all proper ways and methods to endeavour to put it out of their power to misuse & Evil entreat us, as they have heretofore Done.

And we doubt not of your Ready and Chearfull Concurrence with us agreeable to your Solemn promise made in this place last Summer in Joining with us against our Enemies the French, and such Indians as are or shall be Instigated by them, for we esteem them Enemies to God as well as to all there Fellow Creatures, who dwell Round about them.

A Large Belt with a figure of a
Hatchet hung to it——

BRETHREN

The publick Affairs of my Government have prevented my Meeting you Sooner.

I was Apprehensive I should not have been able to meet you this Fall and it was determined upon on a Sudden so that there could not be timely Notice sent to the rest of His Majestys Governments or I doubt not they would likewise sent Commissioners to be present at this Interview.

We are all subject to the same prince United in the same Bands of Duty, and Allegiance to the Great King our Common Father, and in Friendship and Affection to Each Other, and in this Union Consists that Strength, that makes us formidable to our Enemies, and them fearfull of our Resentment.

We are all United with You in the same Covenant Chain, which as Long as We preserve it free from Rust must Remain impregnable, and You on Your parts have Declared "that You will preserve it so "strong & bright, that it shall not be in the power of the Devil himself with all his Wiles and Arts to break or dirty it.

You are also united with all the far Nations of Indians in league with our great King, with whom we Recommend to You to preserve Strict Friendship and hold Frequent Corrispondence.

That you yourselves (who many of you live Scattered

and Dispersed) should dwell in bodys closer together as you have heretofore promised to do.

And We advise you to keep your young men at home and within call, excepting Such as may be sent from time to time a Hunting or against our Enemies, and you may Depend upon the Most ready & effectual Assistance from us in all times of Danger.

A Belt—

Answer of the Six Nations (except the Sennekes who are absent) To His Excellency George Clinton Esq^r Governour in Chief of the province of New York &c^a Commissioners and the Colonys of the Massachusets Bay and Connecticut at Albany the 12 day of October 1745.

BROTHER CORLAER and Brethren of the Massachusets Bay Pensylvania and Connecticut.

Two days agoe Our Brother Corlaer and our Brethren of the Massachusets Bay and Connecticut Spake to us And now We are come to give Our Answer. You must not Expect that We can answer Exactly to the several Heads you mentioned to us but only to the principal Articles You have Renewed the Old Covenant Chain, And We do now Renew the same on our parts It is Impossible that it can ever Rust for we daily Wipe off the Dirt and keep it Clean which we will ever Continue to do

A Belt of Wampum

BRETHREN. You thought of it to mention to us that there had been an uproar among us last Winter and told us that We ought not to Entertain such Notions of you our Brethren Especially as We had no Grounds for any such Belief. It is true Brethren such a Rumour was among us. But it was immediately Buried and forgot And We did not Expect that our Brethren would have mentioned any thing Concerning that affair to us at this Interview. and We desire you to think no more of it. We are always mindfull of the Covenants between us and

Our Brethren and here is a Certificate [a] to prove that we are in Covenant with our Brethren of Boston

A String of Wampum

[a] A Certificate dated 1st August 1744 delivered by Hendrick with The String of Wampum upon this Article under the Hand of Governour Shirley and the Seal of the province of the Massachusetts Bay—Signifying that Hendrick Sachem of the Maquas and Kajonmarygoa Sachem of the Onondages Deligates from the Eight Nations accompanied by the Commiss^{rs} appointed by that Government to treat with the Eight Nations Arrived at Boston 28 June 1744 had at several Conferences with Governour Council and Assembly confirmed the Treatys made with that Government and particularly the last Summer at Albany and had proceeded on a Voyage and had an Interview with the Eastern Indians and faithfully Acquited themselves in Enjoining them to Maintain peace with the English and Warning them of the Consequences of their Violating the same].

BROTHER CORLAER and Brethren of the Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut.

You Spoke to us Concerning Our going to Canada this Summer and told us. That the Commissioners of Indian affairs had last Winter enjoined us not to go then but some of us Went As to what you tell us that We had taken a Belt from the Governour of Canada whereby he desired us to take up the Hatchet against You our Brethren And that We promised Him to Consider of it at Home It is not so All that passed. These the Mohawks and Tuskaroroes have given the Commissioners on Indian affairs an Account of at their Return & We are Convinced that Account is True.

A Belt of Wampum.

BRETHREN

You have thought fit to Relate to us Several particulars Concerning the War between You and the French and what Reasons you had for taking up the Hatchet against the French and their Indians We thank You for giving us a particular Account of the provocation and

inducements You had for declaring War Against them You also mentioned to us that We are one Body and one Flesh and that if one of us is touched or Hurt then the other is so likewise and you have informed us that you are Molested and Attacked by the Enemy and had therefore taken up the Hatchet against them and disired As We are one flesh with you that we would also take up the Hatchet against the French and those Indians under their Influence in Conjunction with you. We the Six Nations accept of the Hatchet and will keep it in Our Bosom. We are in Alliance with a great Number of far Indians and if We should so Suddenly lift up the Hatchet without acquainting Our Allies with it they would perhaps take offence at it We will therefore before we make use of the Hatchet against the French or their Indians send four of our People (who are now Ready to go) to Canada to demand Satisfaction for the Wrongs they have done Our Brethren and if they Refuse to make Satisfaction then We shall be Ready to use the Hatchet against them Whenever Our Brother the Governour of New York Orders us to it.

A Belt of Wampum.

His Excellency Asked them what time they thought Necessary to try whether the French Indians would make Satisfaction.

The Indians Answered two Months.

His Excellency Asked them that if in case the Enemy should committ any further Hostility's in the meantime whether they would then upon His Excellencys Commands immediately make use of the Hatchet

They Answered yes.

Here the Indians Requested his Excellency that as they had given the War Shout upon delivering the Hatchet to them that their Brethren would now Signifye their Approbation of this Article in their usual method—Whereupon his Excellency and most of the Company joined in Shouts with Three Huzzas [Excepting the Massachusetts Commissioners]

BRETHREN

You desired us that we should gather together our

People that are Scattered and Settle in a Body Especially as it is very uncertain how soon we may have occasion for them Your request is very Reasonable and we will use our Endeavours for that End.

A Belt of Wampum

BRETHREN We have now finished our Answer and have nothing further to Say but only one Request to make to You all Which is that You Our Brethren should be all united in Your Councils and let this Belt of Wampum serve to bind You all together. And if any of you have any thing of Importance to Communicate to us this is the place when it should be done.

A Belt of Wampum

[Here a Note of Approbation was given by the Interpreter by his Excellencys Directions for New York Connecticut and Pensylvania]

BRETHREN Trade was the first Occasion of Our Entering into Alliance together and from time to time Goods have been Sold dearer to us and We have several times desired that the price of Goods should be Lower and more Moderate but never could get a Satisfactory Answer And now We take this oppertunity to desire Our Brother Corlaer himself and the Commissioners of the several provinces to take it into their Consideration that Goods may be Sold Cheaper to us for how Shall We do now We have taken up the Hatchet We have no Powder Ball nor Cloaths People that go to War ought to be well provided with Ammunition this is the last time We shall Speak upon this Head if We do not succeed now.

A Belt

His Excellency Answered them That he would do his utmost that Goods should be sold them as Cheap as they could be afforded but that the price of Goods depends upon the Scarcity or Plenty of them and as it is now War Goods are Scarce and Consequently dear and that they shall be furnished with powder and Ammunition upon Occasion. His Excellencys further Speech to the Indians

BRETHREN

I have some presents which shall be Ready to deliver you at this place an hour hence.

Since there is none of our Brethren the Sennekes here I doubt not but you will be so just to them in the Distribution as to set apart and Reserve their Share for them and take care it be delivered to them.

It gives me much pleasure to see so many of Our Brethren at this meeting And I have taken care hitherto for your Refreshment and Hospitable Entertainment I hope you have Wanted for Nothing And I doubt not but the Commissioners of the other Governments will now do their parts towards you till your Return home. I shall provide all Necessarys for your Journey from hence to Schenectady.

I have been detained here several days longer than I should have been had not Commiss^r from several other Governments attended at this Interview which of course will make the presents fall so much Shorter

I Recommend to you that you take care there is no mischief done in your Way home.

I Recommend it to Our Brethren the Maquas to enquire into Certain Complaints of some Injuries done to Farmers living at Canajoharie and to see that Justice be done and no Mischief Committed for the future.

Cadwallader Colden to John Armit

[Copy]

COLDENHAM NOV^r 4th 1745

Mr Armit

I have yours of the 22^d of last month with the assignment of the Mortgage enclosed, but I can hear of none going from this to Phila^{la} Please to write to me whether my executing it before other Witnesses will do My hand is so well known in Phila^{la} & your evidence from my letters seem to me to make that nicety not very necessary

If any witnesses offer before I hear from you I shall make use of them & afterwards do as you shall advise As the consideration mentioned in the assignment is only for the Principal I suppose you'll take care to receive the Interest due I wrote to you by Mr Lewis Evans in which I told you that the high price of Bills was unexpected to me but if it cannot be helped by delaying to the Spring that is that you have some assurance of the rate of Excha falling that you purchase a bill as soon as you are in Cash sufficient for it & make it payable to Mr Alexander Coutts Merchant in London & Please to send one Bill to Mr Coutts with a letter signifying to him that by my directions you had sent that bill to him & that it is in full of a Legacy of £ 200 Pensilvania money left to my Br Mr James Colden Minister at Whitsome near Berwick in Scotland by my Aunt Elizabeth Hill late of Philad^{ia} Please at the same time form an account of the Excha & charges to show that it amounts to that sum And please to send me a copy of what you write & one of the bills that I may as soon as possible write to Mr Coutts & send the Copy Desire Mr Coutts to inform me by directing to New York or you at Philadelphia or both of us of the receipt of the Bill of its acceptance & payment

NOVEMBER y^e 26th 1745

From John Bartram

Dear esteemed Friend

two days ago I received thy agreeable letter of November y^e 7th with y^e seed of y^e Arbor Vita which seemed to be very good it was A fine parcel & very acceptable I sowed it carefully yesterday I am obliged to thee for endeavouring to procure more for my correspondents but I dont know yet whether thay want any of it; thay have not wrote to mee for it; but I believe if my affairs falls out pretty well next year, I must go to y^e Katts kill Mountains. I designn to lett thee know before I set out. thy

accounts of y^e mineral springs in your countrey is very acceptable. I am allways glad to meet with any materialls to enlarg my knowledg withall. pray which side of Hudsons river is y^e purgative spring. I never heard before that there was A bituminous spring at Onondaga but in y^e Senecas Country. but am well informed there is one at Alegany: doth thee believe it is really brimstone that y^e spring up y^e mohawks river lets fall. if so it must be of great virtue

in y^e same ridge with your highlands in Pensilvania & virginia is great quantities of iron oar & often mixt with copper Sometimes Vitriol & Sometimes Sulpher. that mixed wth copper or Sulpher Some people thinks will make very good pots it runs easy. Some Says thay will be too brittle I have been lately at A Copper mine mixed with iron ye earth or stones there about yealded fine Coperas & y^e water proceeding therefrom would turn Iron into copper as y^e owner affirmed to mee who Shewed me his knife handle that seemed to be good Copper, which he said had been Iron. y^e water is so corrosive as to Corode y^e Iron that is put into it which being put into fusion by fire is transmuted into copper y^e mineral stones exposed to y^e air falls to powder like slaked lime

I received A letter & A booke from Dr. Gronovius directed to thee & A letter from thy brother which I forwarded y^e same day I received them: which I hope is before now come safe to thy hand. there was in Jersey A well dug about 14 foot deep in A stiff marly clay which supply y^e house with water for 40 years but these two dry falls it failed. this fall y^e owner had y^e wall taken up & dug 14 foot deeper (through A black stinking sulphurous earth: interspersed with lumps of hard shining sulphur) but found no water, then he bored 12 foot deeper still found no water then left off: its pitty but he had dug or bored 10 feet deeper to try what difference he might have found;

I have sent thee some of Gronovius observations on some things that I sent him: if thee thinks it is worth while keeping y^e original, I wish thee would be so kind as to

copy it over in English which I can better understand & send it me by y^e first opportunity—& I will try if Lewis Evans who is under obligations to thee will copy over Dr. Mitchells history or treaties of y^e pines in virginia which he left with me; but since hath sent for them if Lewis will copy it I or hee shall send it to thee: I have not yet received y^e parcel from Gronovius I suppose it is coming in y^e next ship which I hope will not be long if y^e french dont intercept

If I can do thee any further service thee art fully entitled to it & needs onely to let me know wherein I can serve thee which will exceedingly pleas thy Sincear friend who wisheth thee & thine prosperity & content

[Indorsed]

JOHN BARTRAM

To

Dr. CADWALLADER COLDEN

Free

B. FRANKLIN

From Benjamin Franklin

PHILAD^a Nov. 28, 1745

Sir

I shall be very willing and ready, when you think proper to publish your Piece on Gravitation, &c., to print it at my own Expencc and Risque. If I can be a means of Communicating anything valuable to the world, I do not always think of Gaining, nor even of Saving by my Business; But a Piece of that kind, as it must excite the Curiosity of all the Learned, can hardly fail of bearing its own Expencc

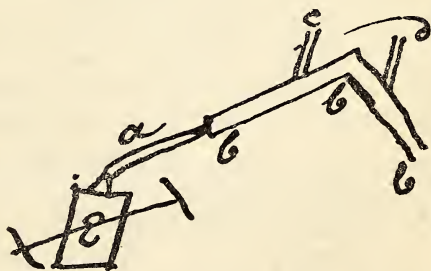
I must not pretend to dispute with you on any Part of the animal Oeconomy: You are quite too Strong for me. I shall just mention two or three little Things that I am not quite clear in.—If there is no Contrivance in the Frame of the Auricles or Ventricles of the Heart, by which they dilate themselves, I cannot conceive how they are dilated. It is Said, By the Force of the Venal Blood rushing into them. But if that Blood has no Force which was not first given it by the Contraction of the Heart, how can

it (diminish'd as it must be by the Resisting Friction of the Vessels it has pass'd thro') be Strong enough to overcome that Contraction? Your Doctrine of Fermentation in the Capillaries helps me a little; for if the returning Blood be rarified by the Fermentation, its Motion must be encreas'd: but as it Seems to me, that it must by its Expansion resist the Arterial Blood behind it, as much as it accelerates the Venal Blood before it, I am still somewhat unsatisfied. I have heard or read Somewhere too, that the Hearts of Some Animals continue to contract and dilate, or to beat, as 'tis commonly express'd after they are separated from the other Vessels and taken out of the Body. If this be true, their Dilatation is not caus'd by the Force of the returning Blood.

I should be glad to satisfy myself too, whether the Blood is always quicker in Motion when the Pulse beats quicker. Perhaps more Blood is driven forward by one Strong deep Stroke, than by two that are weak and light: As a Man may breathe the more Air by one long common Respiration when in Health, than by two quick short ones in a Fever,

I apply'd the Syphon I mention'd to you in a former Letter to the Pipe of a Water Engine. E is the Engine;

A its Pipe b b b the Syphon; c & d the two glass Pipes communicating with the Syphon. Upon working the Engine, the Water flow'd thro' the Syphon, and the Glass Tube c; but none



was discharg'd thro' d. When I stop'd with my Finger the End of the Syphon; the Water issu'd at both Glass Tubes with equal Force; and on only half Stopping the End of the Syphon it did the Same. I imagined the Sudden Bending of the Syphon gives such a Resistance to the Stream, as to occasion its Issuing out of the Glass

Tube c: But I intend to try a farther Experiment, of which I shall give you an Account.

I am now determin'd to publish an American Philosophical Miscellany, Monthly or Quarterly. I shall begin with next January, and proceed as I find Encouragement and Assistance. As I purpose to take the Compiling wholly upon my self, the Reputation of no Gentleman or Society will be affected by what I insert of anothers; and that perhaps will make them more free to communicate. Their Names shall be publish'd or conceal'd as they think proper; and Care taken to do exact Justice in Matters of Invention, &c. I shall be glad of your Advice in any Particulars that occur'd to you in thinking of this Scheme; for as you first propos'd it to me, I doubt not but you have well consider'd it.

I have not the Original of D^r Mitchel's Tract on the Yellow Fever. Mine is a Copy I had taken with his Leave when here. M^r Evans will make a Copy of it for you.

I hope it will be confirmed by future Experiments that the Yaws are to be cured by Tar Water. The Case you relate to D^r Mitchel gives great Hopes of it, and should be publish'd to induce People to make Trials: for tho' it should not always Succeed, I suppose there is no Danger of its doing any Harm.

As to your Pieces on Fluxions and the different Species of Matter, it is not owing to Reservedness that I have not yet Sent you my Thoughts; but because I cannot please my Self with them, having had no Leisure yet to digest them. If I was clear that you are anywhere mistaken, I would tell you So, and give my Reasons, with all Freedom, as believing nothing I could do would be more obliging to you. I am persuaded you think as I do, that he who removes a Prejudice or an Error from our Minds, contributes to their Beauty, as he would do to that of our Faces, who should clear them of a Wart or a Wen.

I have A Friend gone to New York with View of Settling there if he can meet with Encouragement. It is

D^r Jn.^o Bard, whom I esteem an ingenious Physician and Surgeon, and a discreet, worthy and honest Man. If upon Conversation with him, you find this Character just, I doubt not but you will afford him your Advice and Countenance, which will be of great Service to him in a Place where he is entirely a Stranger, and very much oblige,

Sr

Your most hum^l Serv^t

B. FRANKLIN

I shall forward your
Letter to D^r Mitchel.
thank you for Leaving it open
for my Perusal

Memoranda in the handwriting of Cadwallader Colden

The Assembly's neglecting the care of ye frontiers order'd building batteries disposed of the publick powder &c. Min. of Council May 14, 1745.

Advice by Committee July 29, 1745.

By the min. of Council Sept^r 3 1745 a Treaty of Neutrality seems to have been concluded w^t y^e French Indians. The supream Court adjourn'd the 12th of Sept^r that 2 of y^e Judges might attend his Excy to Albany.

11th of Dec^r 1745 His Excellcy Communicated a letter from Counsellor Colden dated the 7th instant to his Excellcy containing several recommendations for the service of the Province together with some information concerning the Intention of the Ennemy

The Com^{rs} for Indian affairs decline to send his Excellcy's message to the six nations to induce them to make war on y^e French Dec^r 24 1745

1745 Jan^r 15 a letter from c c dated Dec^r 16 representing several matters for y^e security of the province

Oct^r 22 1746 Report of y^e Comittee relating to provisions refus'd by Com^{rs} at Albany &c & recommitted.

Advice upon y^e Expⁿ being laid aside Aug 22 & Aug 28
Instructions to Com^{rs} y^e last paragr. of them

The command of y^e Militia & Batteries &c Sept^r 29
Oct^r 1st 1746

Min. of Council June 17th 1746 The Assembly desir'd the Council to appoint a Committee a join a committee of their house for to consider the means for execution of that part which this Colony is to take in the intended Expedition ag^t Canada To which the Council agreed & apointed Mr Horsmanden & four others to meat next day & with liberty to adjourn from time to time

July 12 1746 The Gov^r refused to join in the address to his Majesty from Council & assemb^y because the assembly had return'd no answer to his message of the 8th inst.

The 4th of Dec^r a misrepresentation of what passed Dec^r 6th

Whereas M^r Colden is put as present before the adjournment to his Excellency's residence M^r Colden was not present till they met at his Excellency's residence.

From Benjamin Franklin

1746.

Sir:

I receiv'd yours with others enclos'd for M^r Bertram & M^r Armit, to which I suppose the enclos'd are Answers. The Person who brought yours said he would call for Answers, but did not; or if he did, I did not see him.

I understand Parker has begun upon your Piece. A long Sitting of our Assembly has hitherto hinder'd me from beginning the Miscellany. I shall write to D^r Gronovius as you desire.

I wish I had Mathematics enough to satisfy my self, Whether the much Shorter Voyages made by Ships bound hence to England, than by those from England hither, are not in some Degree owing to the Diurnal Motion of the Earth; and if so, in what Degree? 'Tis a Notion that has lately entred my Mind; I know not if ever any

other's.—Ships in a Calm at the Equator move with the Sea 15 Miles $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ minute; at our Capes suppose 12 Miles $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ Minute; in the British Channel suppose 10 Miles $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ Minute: There is a Difference of 2 Miles Velocity $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ Minute between Cape Hinlopen & the Lizard! no small Matter in so weighty a Body as a laden Ship swimming in a Fluid! How is this Velocity lost in the Voyage thither, if not by the Resistance of the Water? and if so, then the Water, which resisted in part, must have given way in part to the Ship, from time to time as she proceeded continually out of Parallels of Latitude where the Earth's Motion or Rotation was quicker into others where it was slower. And thus as her Velocity tends eastward with the Earth's Motion, She perhaps makes her Easting sooner.—Suppose a Vessel lying still in a Calm at our Cape, could be taken up and the Same Instant set down in an equal Calm in the English Channel, would not the Difference of Velocity between her and the Sea she was plac'd in, appear plainly by a violent Motion of the Ship thro' the Water eastward? I have not Time to explain my self farther, the Post waiting, but believe have said enough for you to comprehend my Meaning. If the Reasons hinted at should encline you to think there is any Thing in this Notion, I should be glad of an Answer to this Question, (if it be capable of a precise Answer) viz

Suppose a Ship sails on a N. East Line from Lat. 39 to Lat 52 in 30 days, how long will she be returning on the Same Line, Winds, Currents, &c being equal?

Just so much as the East Motion of the Earth helps her Easting, I suppose it will hinder her Westing.

Perhaps the Weight and Dimensions or Shape of the Vessel should be taken into the Consideration, as the Water resists Bodies of different Shapes differently.

I must beg you to excuse the incorrectness of the Scrawl as I have not time to transcribe.

I am Sir

Your most humb^{le} Serv^t

B. FRANKLIN.

Written on the back of the above letter, in Colden's handwriting is the following:

There is no Question but in the case you mention of a ships being taken up in a Southern latitude & let down in one some degrees more northerly the same moment she would have a degree of Motion Eastward but that it would shorten a Voyage from America to Europe I cannot think because as the alteration is made by insensibly small steps it can only be so much as an alteration of the Velocity in the least conceivable part of a degree of Latitude is greater than the resistance of the Water which in all cases remains the same & equally resists the smallest alteration of Velocity as the greatest Suppose for example in the Alteration of one second of latitude how much greater will the Velocity be in the Southward than northward If it be 60 miles at the Equator what will it be at 1 second on either side of the Equator The Difference is the force which the ship can acquire from the diurnal rotation of the earth in this second Now it may be asked whether this Difference will be sufficient to overcome the resistance of the Water in any degree whatsoever that is whether it be not infinitely small in respect to the resistance of the body of Water which resists the motion of a ship & if so it can neither add to nor diminish the ships way in the time she alters her latitude one second & if this be the case it cannot either forward or stop her way in a greater change of latitude because it is done by a continual addition of these seconds or rather of less than thirds or of any imaginable quantity so that according to my way of computation to answer to your question the difference of time in the going & return will be = 0

The shorter Voyages to Europe without doubt are chiefly owing to the more frequent westerly winds but this does not account for the reason why in going to Europe a ship is generally a head of the reckoning or you meet with the land sooner than by the computation

of the ships way if it be well kept whereas in coming to America the reckoning is generally a head of the ship The true reason I think is from the Tides The High Water every day is nearly three quarters of any hour more easterly on the globe than the day before or following the course of the moon advances daily about twelve degrees eastward & therefor they every day in sailing Westerly meet with the contrary current of the Water sooner than they do in sailing easterly as in a river in going down the river you meet the flood sooner than you do the ebb in going up the river where the flood & ebb are nearly equal for the difference of the force & length of the ebb more than the flood in rivers from the force of the accumulated fresh water cannot take place at sea If you think proper to give this in your Miscellany as the reason of the shorter voyages from America to Europe than from Europe to America other things being alike I'll undertake to support it against any objection. There are some mistakes that I would be so far from being ashamed of them after I knew them to be such that I would be vain of them because none but those of a lively & quick & piercing Imagination can fall into them a Blockhead is incapable of making such mistakes. There is even a pleasure in telling it after the mistake is discover'd & the person to whom it is told values the ingenuity which occasion'd the mistake & on reflection is conscious to himself that he would have valued himself for that very thought. There is a use likewise in mentioning these mistakes to others to guard them against these conceptions which please & flatter the imagination most

Suppose the difference between the lands end & the coast of America to be 72 degr. of longitude (I choose this number to avoid fractions) then the same high Water on the coast of America will happen six hours later at the lands end & therefor a ship will meet with one whole tide of flood against her there which would be an ebb on her favor on the east of America & supposing her voyage perform'd in 30 days every day equally approaching to America she would every day have that tide

lessen'd $1/30$ of the time as she approaches I once had thoughts to calculate an Equation to rectify a ships easting & westing but upon reflecting that a general equation cannot serve for every ship but must be different for every ship according to the several molds by which the ship is built & her being loaded or in ballast I believe it will be of little use for according to the different molds of a ship & her being deep or light tides have greater or less force on her way The heavy dull ships must make much larger allowances than the best saylors & accordingly we generally find these heavy saylors most out in their reckoning.

From John Armit

PHILAD. y^e 4th 11 mo 1745/6

Esteemed Friend

By thine of 30th of 10 mo past I understand the deed is sent down to Richard Nicholls but as yet have heard nothing of it from him, As to the News you have of the Disturbance in Scotland I believe it is too true and doubt not but Confusion and ruin to abundance will be the issue thereof and am of thy Opinion it may not be so prudent to Send the Bills at this time, I have upwards of Eighty pounds of Jersey bills by me and if should receive the Mony for the abovesaid deed please to Inform me what I shall do therewith I am glad to hear you are all well as we are at present and conclude with due respects thy assured friend

JOHN ARMITT

Bills are at 85 ^{ps} C^t here

[Indorsed]

For
Doct^r

CADWALLADER COLDEN
to the care
of RICHARD NICHOLLS
in New York.

From John Bartram

y^e 10th of y^e 11th month 1744/5

Esteemed Friend

I have lately received thy kind letter of I dont know when it being without date I am obliged to thee for y^e bush squash seed. & am glad to hear of thy correspondence with Gronovius & Linneus. I expect dayly to receive letters from Gronovius by A ship or two from London but it is so long Since thay left that port that I am under uneasy apprehension for them: I am obliged to thee for thy information of y^e virtues of y^e Uva ursi I am afraid thay have not made sufficient experiments of it yet—I have seen y^e berries as large as cherries & when verry rip near y^e color of claret tho thay continue green till late in y^e fall. I have eat of them on our mountains; our indian interpreter tould me that he had lived of them several days & reconed them wholsome some of our people saith thay are poisonous & others that y^e berries is very good to moderate A burning fevour; I cannot find that y^e Collinnsonia groweth in Maryland or virginia on y^e south of y^e mountains or else Clayton or Mitchel would have found it; when y^e latter was at my house last fall he tooke seed & specimens from mee. he had never seen it before that Journey to Philadelphia; indeed Miller in his second part of his Gardeners dictionary saith it came from Maryland which is y^e place of its natural growth; but this is a shamefull error for I sent y^e seed of it first to Peter Collinson with y^e first seeds I sent to him; & when it growed & seeded with him it was observed to be A new Genus & in honnour to its first propagator in Europ thay called it Collinnsonia; & if I had not sent it out of Pensilvania I suppose Miller would not have known that there had been such A plant upon y^e earth

Sir Hans sloan hath sent me this fall all Petivers works Hermans Parradisus Battavus. Sellii Historia Naturalis

teredinis. Etmulerius on all diseases & y^e natural history of Ireland which is prety amusements for this winter.

y^e 25th of January

I have sent thee some of y^e stones of y^e best Plumbs in England as our friend Peter informs me thay are y^e Orleans and Green Gage & apricots one nutmeg peach stone. I have Just received them. pray plant them as soon as possible if thay was soaked in bran & water A week it may accelerate thair vegetation—I am apt to believe thay would prosper finely in your countrey—have you any of y^e little bitter gourd like Colocynthus I have some if thee wants I can send thee some seed doth any of y^e Laururus grow near thy house it is A wonderful specifick for y^e cure of sore brests

I have some thought of comeing into your parts & to y^e katts kill mountains next august & should be glad of thy company there If it would suite with thy interest or satisfaction but Alas we dont know what disapointments we may meet with before that time. However in y^e mean time if I can do thee any service pray let me know wherein which will much oblige thy Sincear friend

JOHN BARTRAM

[Indorsed]
For Doctor CADWALLADER COLDEN
These
Free
B FRANKLIN

From James Alexander

NEW YORK Janry 20th 1745/6

D^r Sir

Yesternight I received yours of the 12th your Letter which you mention of the 31st Dec^r to have Sent by one Wilson has not come to hand & probably he has Carried it with him to Philadelphia so that I have not Seen the postscript which you mention is to be added to the End of the first Chapter, & things Lye just as they were for want of that your Letter, I Submitt it to you whether you

Should not take that my Letter to which that was an answer & answer it de novo, for its uncertain whether your Letter of 31st will ever come to hand

Our Assembly Sits now at Greenwich Phillip Livingston attends it & designs to Stay on purpose while it Sits, he is in hopes you'll also be here & supposes you had a Summons at the Same time when he had

The jersey assembly was Dissolved, & wrnts for a new one I hear are returnable the End of this month, its supposed that most of the Same men will be returned, & Gov^r Morris must much alter his Conduct (I think) if he makes any thing of them

I am glad to hear your family is in health mine are all so I thank God for it—the town is also very healthy except as to the small pox, which I am afraid will hang about it this year to come & that for not inoculateing, which some of the Doctors & many of the people are averse to, its Said there have five dyed already of inoculation, & that about 100 have been inoculated, those who favor inoculation Say that 4 of these five did not die of the inoculation but by other causes, & particularly that on two of them the small pox came out, the third day after the inoculation, of the Confluent kind, so that the infection must have been taken before—other two had a Distinct kind, finely come out but by carelessness catcht Cold, which Struck them in again so that of the 100 theres but one, that can justly be said to have died by the inoculation & most of those who have inoculated have had them Extremely favourable few needing to keep their beds—Peter Livingston inoculated his two children, & they had scarcely thirty between them, and are well & abroad again

There's a rumour here that the English forces are arrived at Cape Breton, I hope it may prove true—I am
D^r Sir

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

att

Coldengham

Your most humble Servt

JA. ALEXANDER.

From John Rutherford

Sir

As This place grows duller every day & my head at present wholly taken up with the Dismal Consequences of the Rebellion in Scotland you can expect but little intertainment in A letter from me, besides I'm quite tired of this inactive life in which His Majesty's few Forces here are in A Situation where they can be of so little Service We haveing no Forts capable of any defence worth Speaking of & little prospect now Considering how things are Circumstanced at home of takeing the field against Canada, Yet I can't help haveing Still some trust in New England from whence they have now Sent for Lidius upon express business. We Officers live all together in the Fort in the merryyest and most agreeable manner you can imagine considering what I've Said above altho we are very Idle for The care of The Frontiers & orders to observe The Motions of The Enemy is give to Coll^l Schuyler so 'tis now The affair of The Militia He haveing now The Same orders from Governour Clintoun that I had, when last here, from Governour Clark, Had I had the same orders now and The Militia orders as then to follow me I could easily have come up with the French after their plundering Saraghtoga before they got two days from The Carrying place for they & especially their Indians drunk hard & travelled very slowly with their Loads of Plunder & Prisoners. I could divert you with the odd management of things here our Out Schouts Indians &c. but the most ridiculous thing is building A Fort upon the Burnt ruins of The Old One which they suffered to rot thro want of repairs before ever they half finished it & it stands in the midle of Low Lands where it can be of no use towards Covering the Country, nor do they pretend they design to make any use of it after this Spring, so by the time they have finished the Job of building it 'twill be time to begin building one in a properer place, The Indians makes a great Joke of this Fort & tells them 'twill be as small a hin-

drance to The French comeing to Albany as 'tis to their comeing to The Mohack River. We hear of nothing done as yet at New York either for the Security of The Province or annoying our Enemys, talking however of great things, Lines of Forts & nameing Commissioners with great powers to treat with the neighbouring Provinces, I wish 'twere done. The last letter I had from you Doctor Colhoun brought me from New York when the Companys came up & can't help being vexed to think of my letter to you about our Indians treaty &c., for I'm Certain it must have been opened & if 'tis carryed to some people they'l never forgive me. I'l leave t'other side for Doctor Colhoun to try if he can fall upon something intertaining to you & so conclude with my best respects to Mrs. Col-den & all your Good Family being with great esteem

Sir

Your most obed^t & very humble
Servant

JOHN RUTHERFURD

Albany 25th Jany 1745/6

From Alexander Colhoun

Sir

As Cap^t Rutherford has in the two preceeding pages given you an Acc^{tt} of the most remarkable occurrences from our Indian Gazette &c I can only inform you of a disappointment happened to me on my leaving of N. York the Gov^r gave me a Verbal order to Co^{ll} Schuyler & the Mayor to provide such a Warm, & convenient house for an Hospital, as I should approve of, when he would order every thing necessary for said Hospitall. On my application to them seemed convinced of the necessity of it, & made many promises from time to time which they have at this hour not complied with.

The market houses were fitted up for our men to free the burghers from having them billeted in their houses but are so very insufficient & cold, the men so crowded

together that the Sick will probably perish (in spite of Art) for want of warm lodging &c, the Burghers refusing to take them into their houses. This is encouragement to serve the people, a Race of Men void of gratitude & humanity &c but better known to you than I can describe them. Cap^t Rutherford & I are much together, tho no time for Study, on acc^{tt} of the numerous family in this small house hope we may move in the Spring, if with any prospect of Success towards Canada otherwise to my Station at N. York. if so, If possible

I shall endeavour to pay you a Visit meantime pray make my complim^{ts} to M^{rs} Colden & Family & am with great regard

Your most obedient
& most humble Serv^t
ALEX^r COLHOUN

Albany Jan^{ry} 25, 1745/6

From James Alexander

NEW YORK Jan^{ry} 30 1745/6

D^r Sir

Yours of Dec^r 31st came to hand with the postscript the Latter end of last week when I imediatly Send to Parker for the Coppy of your papers which I wrote to you I had given him before & acquainted him with what you wrote as to Size &c

on Sunday I perused the first Chapter & made the enclosed notes in peruseing, & on Monday Sent Parker the first Chapter to proceed in Setting it—he had begun the Elizabeth town bell & done one Sheet, whereof the proof when Sent me was So correct that I found only one Comma, (which was put at the End instead of the beginning of a word) to alter

our Supream Court Ended on Tuesday last & the Ship London is Sailed today for Ireland which hindered my writting to you till now

Mr Nichols spoke to me lately about the Globe at Newburgh, I promised the first Spare moment to think of it, which I have done today & have drawn my opinion, which I intend to send him with this tomorrow morning, I think the facts in the State of the Case found by an inquisition upon a Mandamus or Commission out of Chancery will vest the Crown with the Lands & Enable the makeing a new Grant, & I have pointed out the material facts for that purpose that should be found—viz death of trustees & no new Election in Life of Survivor by which the Corporation was Dissolved I have just now received yours of the 21st I am Sorry to hear of the want of regard to Disapline in your parts, its a threatening prospect & yet it falls Short of the Disregard in jersey where all Law is Disposed as I doubt not you have heard by the two Newark riots

I have not opened the Quadrant as yet & doubt if I can get time till my return from jersey in Aprile next, & if you were down the next Spring I should be glad of your help in the Setting it up, for which Several sheets of Directions came with the quadrant, from those who had observed with it & Certified the goodness of it

The facilitating the method of forming Equations of the two Luminaries & planets will be of vast use & I am glad you are Set about it—I believe that Flamsteads *historia Celestis* will be of great use to you in that which I have & Cost me £9 Sterling, & if you desire it I will Send it to you by the first Sloops

If you can show from what natural principle the Degree of motion which the planets have is impressed & is always changeing, I believe it's absolutely new and your own Discovery, & I think must tend much to the perfection of Astronomy

I must own that many things do & may Exist whereof their form or modus of operation, we cannot form a just idea of But yet, because your first papers to my thinking gave So intelligible an idea of the modus of the operation of the other, to cause all the Phenomena, attributed to attraction, its with reluctancy that I am induced to

believe that first idea not just by your Leaving it out—
And yet (if I think it so faulty as not to rely on it) I
think it might be preserved at Least as an answer to the
Objection that you must Suppose some virtue Emitted
by the resisting matter

I Say that in answer to that objection this would
show one way how it were possible for the Resisting
matter to be the cause of an Effect at a Distance from
it without Emitting any virtue, not that you Say you are
of opinion that thats the way of the agency of the resist-
ing matter—I Submitt it to you whether it should not
be preserved at least for that use

When Parker Sends me the proof of the first Sheet
I shall order 300 Coppies as you desire

I have not forwarded your Letter to M^r Franklin,
shall I Do it? as you don't send him your papers to print
—I am

D^r Sir

Your most humble Servt

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
att Coldingham

J^A. ALEXANDER

From James Alexander

NEW YORK Feb 23d 1745/6

D^r Sir

About 3 days agoe I had yours of 7th & 8th instant—
as to haveing any number of your Theory printed on
fine paper, the Direction is come too late as Several
Sheets were printed before I had your Letter—I shall
Send to Parker tomorrow morning for one copy of
whats printed & enclose it to you—I hope he will finish
the whole before the third Tuesday of March when I go
to Amboy, & were it not for the assembly votes I believe
he would finish it Sooner,—if he cannot finish it before
that time, I should be glad that by your next you'll Say
whether he Shall Stop for 3 weeks till I return, or whether
youll trust to Parkers own Examination, or any others

Flamsted's *Historia Coelestis* will give you observations of Sun moon & Stars almost Dayly Continued from 1668 to 1720, its by the help of these that Sir Isaac Newton Examined his Theory of them & by these Flamsted Shows some Errors to be Corrected in his own tables, I think a Considerable one in the places of the aphelion & perihelion, these will be of infinitely more use to you in Seeing if your theory agrees with fact & observation than any Observations that can be made here

As to Flamstead's talks joined with his Doctrine of the Sphere they were printed in 1680 & whether there has been any new Edition of them I have not heard

I Do not remember to have heard it Stated before that the axis of the Earth is not always parallell to it Self—Some Such thing I have heard as to the moon I believe & that what was called its rotations were owing to that but I think I have mett with it Since that those rotations are accounted for by its North & South Latitude in respect to the Ecliptick which Shows us Different parts of the moon, & also by its excentricity in its orbit keeping Still its axis always parallell to it Self

If I remember right Bradleys instrument was a Sector with a very small arch made chiefly for observing a Single Star that past thro his Zenith & in order to find the parallax of the fixed Stars, the Sector was made by M^r Graham with Such Exquisite nicety as to observe to a Second, & while the Earth was tending to the Southern tropick had fixed the Sector So as that Star should appear in it every night as it past the Zenith, but instead of any motion appearing northward, which (if any parallax had been) it would have had, he perceived a motion Southward to the great Surprise of himself & all whom he called to See this with their own Eyes—Now the meridians could have no Effect I think at the Zenith to cause that Star to appear more or Less Southward—and this motion at the pole of the Ecliptick is about 44" in all, & its less in other Stars according to their distance from that pole, & it seems the observation of the Stars according to his Theory agrees with all observations, & by the book called

the degree of the meridian which I lent you, if you observed it its now as much a thing used to be added or Subtracted as refraction or parallax—how you account for it that the meridians Should differ so much as 5 or 6 minutes I am utterly at a Loss to See—I can plainly See that the Suns & much more the moons greatest altitudes are not upon the Meridian Exactly Except at their Solstices, because of their continual Motion at other times to the Northward or Southward & Consequently at other times their greatest altitudes while going Northward will be after they pass the meridian & while going Southward before they reach it, but what the quantity of the Difference is I know not but believe it very small, So Small as not to be worth notice because I never mett with it taken notice of in any observations that I remember,—and Suppose the point of greatest altitude were 5' of degrees west or East of the meridian that would be but 20" of time, & the Difference of Declination in 20" of time, I believe is much Less than 1" & so not worth notice—But this Consideration I think shows that a meridian Line formed by Equal altitudes of Sun or moon & after they come to the meridian Except at their Solstices is Lyable to Error

I have found it Difficult to Direct myself of the Common manner of thinking that action must be accompanied with motion, & begin to see its an Error—I don't know that that Difficulty has arisen from any improper Expressions used by you, nor that any words of yours imply an Emanation of virtue otherwise than the Difficulty of receiving a thing to act at a Distance from it Self without Something moveing from it to that Distance. You See by what I Send you that Parker has done with the postscript So nothing can be added to it but if he had not, I Do assure you I should have not adventured to add anything to it, unless you had given me the Exact words for I own I am not master of the thing as yet but have faith that the thing is right, & I am everyday more & more reconciled to it—the Consequences that two bodies of resisting matter placed at any Distance

from one another in the ether would there remain at rest, were there no other matter besides the Elastick & resisting, I Say the consequences of that at first Startled me for if So then one pound in one Scale will equiponderate 1000 in the other Scale tho the beam hang by the midle, which at first Sight Seems odd, but its plain if neither have motion they must remain at rest & So Equiponderate

I Shall be Extremely glad to See your Equation table of the Earths motion & shall trye it with Flamsted's Observations which are infinitely more to be Depended on than any I ever took or I believe will take because he had Exquisite Instruments made under his own Eye & by his Direction & had a 52 years Experience as Kings Astronomer besides what Experience he had acquired before he was found the most fitt person to be preferred to that office

I have not the Least knowledge or notion of any Second cause used by the Almighty to give the progressive motion or projectile force to bodies of resisting matter thats a thing that being once done wants not to be done again & therefore his fiat should Seem to be the Easiest Cause for frustra fit per plura is a Certain rule of his actions, but yet if by causes which retain those bodies in their orbits, that motion first given is impaired & So wants reparation then indeed I Doubt not but that the almighty provided the Second cause to make that reparation & if that cause was Sufficient to give the first progressive motion, Then was that the Easiest way for that motion to arise & so within the Said rule

I am still in hopes that you may be down here this Spring that we may together open the Quadrant—Set it up & observe with it first together—

I am D^r Sir

Your most humble Servant

JA. ALEXANDER.

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

Att

Coldingham

Cadwallader Colden to James Alexander

[Copy]

March 7th 1745/6

D^r S^r

I have yours of the 23^d of Feb^{ry} with three half sheets from Parker I have not observ'd any error of the press worth noticing except page 17 line 9 *The Machine of Aggregate* should be *Machine or aggregate* On Tuesday last I sent by Tenbrook an Albany Skipper a copy of my Tables of Equation of the Earths mean motion & of her orbit which I hope you have receiv'd by this time as he went by land what you write to me of Flamsted's *Historia Coelestis* gives me hopes of having my Theory put to the full proof & that you will take the trouble to examine it in all the principal points which are chiefly at & near the Equinox & Solstices & about 46 degr 30 from the Equinox. For which purpose if you please to calculate the suns place by my Tables near about the times when the sun is in those parts of the ecliptic & the suns Declination according to the Variations which I suppose of the obliquity of the Ecliptic & if in all these cases Flamsted Meridian altitudes give at the observatory the same altitude of the Equator I shall presume that my Tables are true And for this purpose I must now tell you the Method which I take to find the sun's Declination at every degree of the Ecliptic Suppose the suns place were 15° from the Equinox I first find what Declination the obliquity of 22° 30' gives at 15° from the Equinox which being found I go to the table of the Equations of the Earth's orbit & find in the right hand column of that table 06' 04" which being added to the Declination before found gives the suns true Declination when at that Distance from the Equinox The Equation for the minutes & seconds is to be found in the same manner as in the Equation of the Earths mean motion from the middle column but you must observe that after the sun passes 46° 30' from the Equinox till it reach the Equinox the same Equation of 58' 13" is every where to be

added to the Declination found from the obliquity of $22^{\circ} 30'$ & the same equation while the sun moves from the Solstice till it come to $46^{\circ} 30'$ of the Equinox but at all places between the Equinox & $46'$ from it the Equation of the Earths orbit in that right hand column corresponding to the suns distance in the Ecliptic from the Equinox added to the Declination found by the common trigonometrical calculation of the obliquity of 22° & $30'$ gives the suns true Declination You will oblige me exceedingly by making these calculations & trials before you go to Amboy & then send me Flamsted's *Historia Cœlestis* with the result of your Calculations

It is impossible for me to explain to you the reasons on which I form this process without explaining the principles of my Theory & which could not be don within the compass of a letter if I had digested my thoughts into order but as I told you before I have not put one line in writing on that subject nor shall I do it till I have an opportunity of comparing my thoughts with Flamsted's observations What first set me upon this work was my observing from the first view that Flamsted's equation table of the Earths orbit in no manner agreed with the figure that I had form'd to my self of it. The sun's place by my Calculations differ most at about $40' 30'$ from the Equinox where I sometimes differ above half a degree from the place according to Flamsted's tables

Pray can you tell me the reason why S^r Isaac Newton struck M^r Flamsted's name entirely out of the 2^a & 3^a Editions of his *Principia* notwithstanding that in the first Edition he had in several places confirm'd his Theory from Flamsted observations

I am in hopes that Parker may have finished the printing of what remains before you go to Jersey if not it must stop till you return unless he can suffer the letters to stand till he sends up the proof sheet to me to examine because what remains where numbers or algebraical characters are used require the greatest correctness & I know of none capable of supplying your place where these are used.

Cadwallader Colden to the Rev^d Dr Samuel Johnson
[Copy]

COLDENHAM Ap: 12 1746

Rev^d S^r

Tho I be now so long in answering your favour of October last it is not from any want of esteem for your Correspondence but from the want of proper opport^{ties} to write & of a subject which I thought might be intertaining to you I am much obliged to you for the information you give me of the learned Speculations of the Gentleman you mention but of this perhaps more some other time I shall only now say that in all the cases which I have examined & where I suspected S^r Isaac Newton to be mistaken I found he had been exceedingly carefull & that the mistakes were all on my side from my not understanding the Subject & therefor you must allow me to suspect the like of that Gentleman where he differs from S^r Isaac on any point that he has positively determined.

I have lately received by M^r Watkins your printed letter on the sovereignty & Promises of God. It is so much according to my manner of thinking that I am surprised that any thinking & good Man should differ from you, but more that they should for that reason entertain harsh thoughts of you & still more that they dare to propagate these harsh thoughts among their neighbours This gives too much reason to suspect their charity (The grand Characterestick of the Christian Religion) if not their Probity. Men without Charity give ground to doubt of their being Christians that is to doubt their understanding the principles of the Christian Religion, & without morality of their belief of any Religion From what I know of the principles assiduously propagated in this part of the Country I think your letter very seasonable & I wish people had more opportunities of informing themselves on subjects of such like nature & then Artfull Men would not have it in their powers to put

such constructions on Gods revealed Will as sets it in opposition to his Will declared in every man's heart or which sets Religeon in opposition to Reason & Morality

These principles are the invention & imposture of Popery & can only be defended on popish priniples (however averse some defenders of them may think themselves to it) & if these principles be allowed they cannot defend themselves from Popery The Papists must allwise have the advantage against men of such principles in support of their most absurd Doctrines & the defenders of these principles (without knowing it) lead the people back as fast as they can to Rome It is for this reason that the Popish Emissaries have directions to join with & to promote all the Enthusiastic Sects & principles among the Protestants The truth of this has appeared from several remarkable & uncontested pieces of History

The difficulties which puzzle some or most men in Speculation on these Subjects arise from their not having proper notions & Distinctions of the nature of things Præscience, for example, in no manner opperates as a cause in producing any effect. I may with great certainty foretell an Eclipse, & its possible, all the Eclipses that shall happen to the end of the world yet it is very certain that I in no manner concur in producing these events by my Præscience of them more than the most ignorant man in Astronomy does

Another mistaken notion is that we think liberty consists in an indifference in our choice or will to either side of the Question, to assent or to deny, to act in one way or in the contrary Now after I understand a Proposition in Euclid I cannot refuse my assent & yet I give my Assent with full liberty Suppose a perfectly good Man we may Safely say he cannot do a wicked act & yet he does good with great freedom This kind of liberty which they suppose, can only exist in Imperfect beings & arises from a defect or want of sufficient knowledge to determine the Will But truely speaking every intelligent being is truely free however necessarily it acts while it acts

only from principles within itself with out compulsion from any efficient cause without it If this be not admitted God cannot be said to be a free Agent who necessarily acts for the best is never misinformed or in doubt & can never be indetermined To understand my conceptions on this Subject, it is necessary for me to tell you wherein I think the essential difference between a Material & an intelligent being consists

All beings of which we have any conceptions are agents or acting Principles (simple or compounded) for we have no Idea's but of our own Actions & of the things which strike our senses Or all Ideas are the effect of some action in or on our minds, otherwise an effect may be produced without a cause, & nothing without action can produce anything These Agents I suppose to be divided into two essentially different kinds of Beings The one Material whose mode & degree of action is determined by the efficient causes or agents surrounding it with out its perceiving any thing of them or being conscious of its own actions Such is a Clock which regularly divides times, the motion of its hands are determined by the Weight hung at one of the Wheels & by the shape & form of the wheels &c That is its actions are determined by efficient causes

The other kind of acting Beings are intelligent Beings who are conscious of their own actions & perceive the Actions of all other beings which any way reach or affect them & which alters & determines its own actions according to the perceptions it has of its own & of the other beings which surround it whose actions reach it & this allwise for some purpose or end, & therefor is of itself properly moved or determined only by final causes And this I take to be the essential difference between Matter & Spirit That Matter has its action regulated & determined only by efficient causes but Spirit or Intelligent Beings by final causes. This gives a real positive & essential difference Whereas the Definitions commonly met with consisting of Negatives are no Definitions or Definitions of nothing

I am now printing something on the Subject of Material Agents which I hope may be of use to enlarge our knowledge in natural Philosophy I print only so many copies as may submit it to the examination of the learned As soon as it shall be printed it will kiss your hands for that purpose.

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD Ap. 22 1746.

S^r

I am very much obliged to you for yours of y^e 12th & exceeding glad that any thing I can write Should meet with the approbation of a Gentleman of your penetration.—You must at least be sensible what a prodigious Tryal of patience it must be to be obliged to defend what is only the Cause of Common Sense against such amazing Absurdities as are read about among us for the Oracles of God.—But in Truth I would rather, if it were possible, believe there is no God, than to believe him to be such a Being as these Teachers, not only represent him, but insist he is, & that you must believe so too, upon the pain of Damnation.—You are very right in observing that popery is of piece, & doubtless at the Bottom of these late mad doctrines & proceedings I verily believe that the late Emissaries who have made so much Confusion among us are but Dupes to the Jesuits, tho' perhaps not sensible that they are so, & that the management of those vagrants that have been rambling with their nonsense all over those Kingdoms & the plantations, have been but a part of the great Scheme that has been long patching & is now come out in the present Rebellion; it appearing that the Seceeders, (as the Methodists are called in Scotland,) have many of them joynd with the papists & Jacobites.—And indeed if they can persuade mankind to believe in such a Deity as they describe, I should not wonder if they should induce them to believe Transubstantiation which Doctrine, as mon-

strossly absurd as it is, I should, if it were possible, much rather beleive than their barbarous & unnatural Notions of the Deity.

Your Notions of Prescience & Liberty are very agreeable to the apprehensions I have of those matters.—And I agree with you, that no Authority, without good Reasons, Should influence our Decisions.—*Nullius In Verba*, Dr Turner's Motto, is very good one, & for the Same Reason, tho' I have a profound Veneration for Mr Locke, Sr Isaac Newton & Bp Berkely, yet I would not be determined meerly by their Authority in a matter of Opinion, nor by their Reasons neither, any further than I can See for my Self. Sr Isaac was doubtless very exact, especially in his Experiments & the mathematical Reasonings, but in meerly physical Conjectures or metaphysical matters it is no wonder if he should Sometimes be mistaken, (with relation to which it is that he has been faulted chiefly by Berkely & Hutchinson,) nor is it to be wondered at if they also in their turn be Sometimes mistaken; tho' I confess I can't but think Bp Berkely is one of the first men of this Age

I have lately read his *Siris*, & shall desire Mr Nichols to Send it you if he can, consistent with his Engagements to Mr Franklin, of whom he was so obliging as to borrow it for me. Be it so that there may be some things that may be tho't futilous; yet I can't but wish I had your Opinion upon the Philosophical part of it.—He imagines that all the sensible Qualities in Bodies are to be accounted for from Light or Fire, derived from the Sun as the Sourse; & that as Sr Isaac has accounted for Colours by the different Refrangibility of the Rays of Light all Colours being originally blended in each Ray: So he Supposes that all Savors, odours & medicinal virtues, are originally blended in the Rays of Light, & diversified in different Bodies according to their Texture as Colours are from the Different Texture of their Surfaces, which Seems a pretty Thought &c. but I shall not enlarge because I hope you will see it.

I shall be very glad to see what you have wrote on

the subjects you mention, which are of much Importance, & I am persuaded, were they rightly explained the cheif Difficulties that divided Learned men would of course vanish; for I doubt whether we do not many times delude our Selves with Sounds, & I apprehend particularly that if a just Definition of those terms were settled, truly thinking men would not differ in their Apprehensions. I do not doubt your Notion of the Difference between Intelligent & Material Beings, (which to avoid ambiguity I should rather call Sensible Beings,) is, at bottom, the Same with mine: yet I must confess, (& I hope you will forgive me in Saying So,) that I Should not have expressed myself exactly in the same manner as you do.—To me it Seems that the words *material Agents*, are really a Contradiction in Terms, & that we cannot use the Term *Agent* when we speak of material Things, (unless it be vulgarly & catachristically, as we Say the Sun rises, moves &c.) because the Term *Agent*, to me in strict philosophic verity, always imports a Being that has a principle of Activity within it self & acts upon a Design whereof it is conscious:—whereas *Matter*, in any Sense, I take to mean a meet passive thing, & to be so far from being capable of consciousness, that it has not the least Glymps of any principle of Self Activity, & therefore, that it is so far from being an Agent, properly speaking, that in all it's motions it is ever passively acted by that intelligent self-active Being who is the Cause of Gravity, Attraction, Repulsion &c in every thing that occurs to our Senses or Imaginations.—Consequently I apprehend there are no such things as Efficient Causes in Nature beside Spirits or Intelligent Beings, (either Supreme or Subordinate,) who as such, ever Act from a principle of Consciousness Design & Self Activity.

Whereas, therefore, you express your Definitions in these Terms, *And this I take to be the Essential Difference between Matter & Spirit, that matter has it's Action regulated & determined by Efficient Causes, but Spirits by final Causes*: I should have chose to express

them thus, *That matter has properly Speaking no Action, but in all it's Motions is meerly passively acted & determined by Spirits which alone can be efficient Causes,—whereas Spirits or Intelligent Beings are such as act from a principle of Consciousness & Design & of Self Exertion & Self determination, under the influence or with a view at what we call final causes, i. e. some End which they aim at Accomplishing.*

But I fear I grow Impertinent & therefore will add no more than to ask your pardon for this Liberty I have presumed to take, & to assure you that I remain, S^r

your most obliged

humble Servant

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Governor William Shirley to the Six Nations.

BOSTON May 29th 1746.

Good Friends & Brethren,

I think it to be conformable to the Agreement made between us, that I should acquaint you with all Matters, of Importance that mutually concern us, and therefore I send you this early account (which I receiv'd last night by one of the Kings Vessels sent Express to me from England) that King George has ordered a large Body of Land Forces to be forthwith imbarck'd in Great Britain, and a great Fleet or barge men of War for an Expedition against Canada, to go to Quebec by Sea; and has ordered the Governours of Virginia, Maryland, Pensilvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts Bay & New Hampshire to raise a great Body of Troops, to march into Canada by the Way of Albany, And his Majesty (whose Predecessors for above a Century of Years have treated your Tribes as good Subjects & Friends) has great Confidence that you will heartily engage with us in prosecuting this Expedition against a treacherous & false hearted Nation, that have always been guilty of Breach of their Treaties with their peaceable

Neighbours; And as God has remarkably favour'd our righteous Cause in delivering up into our hands Cape Breton & the Country in those Parts, so we trust in his Power & Goodness for giving us Success in this important Enterprize, & thereby shewing that he is a God of Justice to punish the wicked & perfidious. And as you did in the last Treaty Governour Clinton and our Commissioners had with you at Albany, upon full Perswasion of the Wrong done us by our Enemies, and your Obligation by Treaty to join with us for obtaining Justice, firmly promise within a few Months to draw the Sword against those Our Enemies, so we trust that upon this singular & extraordinary Occasion we shall have your utmost Assistance by raising as large Body of Men out of your Tribes as possible to prosecute this Expedition jointly with us; and in return you may depend upon all the Protection and Friendship which his Majesty King George & his Subjects within these Northern Colonies can shew you—Admiral Warren, your hearty Friend, is by the Kings Order to have the Command of the Squadron of Ships upon this Expedition.

I am with great Truth & Friendship
Yours faithful Brother

W. SHIRLEY

To the Chiefs of the Six Nations of India & their Tribes in Alliance with his Majesty King George

[Indorsed] Govern^{or} Shirley's Intended letter to y^e Indians which I would not suffer to be presented to them at our last meeting of them at Albany, August 1746.

Cadwallader Colden to Joh. Fred. Gronovius

[Copy]

PROVINCE OF NEW YORK

COLDENHAM May 30th 1746.

S^r

The enclosed sheets are a copy of what I sent to you in the beginning of last winter directed to the Care of M^r Collinson but as we have since heard that the ship was taken betwixt Portsmouth & the Douns & carried

into Dieppe these papers must be lost As such misfortune was to be expected there was an outside direction on the Packet in French desiring the Captors in such case to send them to the Gentlemen of the Royal Garden at Paris tho' I then thought & still think that such creatures as privateers commonly are, will very little mind anything of that kind, but I mention this to you that in case the Captⁿ of the privateer be a man of some taste for learning you may take some opportunity of inquiring after them I sent along with the Papers the Specimens which you desir'd & some others together with the seeds of several plants & the loss of them I cannot at present repair. Pray God these Wars may soon cease for they are destructive to Learning After I had wrote that letter I receiv'd yours of the ninth of July 1745 & likewise the Packet which had been so long missing dated the 6th of August 1743 with Linnæus Fundamenta Botanica [one word missing] Botanica together with your Flora Virgin & Index Lapidum The first came by M^r Collinsons care but how the packet so long on its way came I know not there was a direction on it by some hand that knows me as You oblige me exceedingly I shall endeavour to make what returns I can. It is so rare a thing for a merchant (who generally make Profit & loss the Rule for all their actions) to apply themselves to any thing of Literature where no gain can be expected that I would with pleasure assist M^r Clifford in sending him seeds but he has already so great a collection that I cannot expect to be otherwise than troublesome in sending things which He has seen over & over again but if he'll please to mention any particulars that he wants I shall endeavour to procure them for him for I shall have my reward in the pleasure I take in serving such men However I hope he will send a Copy of his Hortus at least to every Province of America that the effects of his Benevolence to man kind may become as general as possible. Our Friend D^r Du Bois died last winter of a malignant corruptive fever accompanied with ulcerations in the throat which has been epidemical several years in

several parts of America Dr Johnstone lives in New Jersey at a considerable distance from my house & I believe does not at present apply his thought to any kind of Literature I hear often from our Friend Mr Bartram the good man was obliged to send to me your letters to him to translate the latin parts of them. It is very extraordinary that a man of the lowest Education without the advantage of any kind of learning should have such a taste for knowledge & acquires so great a share of it. I send another Copy of the treatise published at New York on Tar Water I have no other Copy of the other on the West India Dry Bellyach The Author proposes to make a new Edition partly occasion'd by some remarks I procured to him on the first Edition.

I design to order three copies of a small piece to be put up in this packet which I intend to submit to the examination of the Learned the printing of which I hope will be finished before this goes. It is on a subject which has puzzled philosophers in all ages the Solution of which I fancy that I have hit on & that it may be of use in the improvement of knowledge in every part of Physicks. I know not whether your taste be in this [one word missing] kind of learning but whether or not I must beg the favour of you to desire some of your Mathematicians those chiefly versant in the Newtonian & Leibnitzian Systems to peruse it of which no doubt you have some of distinguished Characters in your University & that you will favour me with your own & their opinion of it as soon as your conveniency permits for I trust you will earnestly beg you to do it without complement and with the sincerity & freedom of a friend and Philosopher as you see I endeavour to write to you This country is now engaged in a most barbarous war with Indians, Popish converts, set on by accursed Priests to murder innocent People in their beds or at their daily labour Good God what a Religion must that be that incites men to such cruelties & yet from what we learn from the Publick News Your country seems not sufficiently apprehensive of being again subjects of such a bloody cruel tyranny.

Cadwallader Colden to Samuel Johnson
[Copy]

D^r S^r

COLDENHAM June 2^d 1746.

I now desire M^r Nicholls to send you a copy of the treatise which I mentioned to you in my last. In it you will find my thoughts on somethings which were the subject of your last to me by the Rev^d M^r Watkins. One thing I am desirous of being more fully inform'd from you how consciousness & Intelligence become essential to all agents that act from a power within themselves as to my own part I do not perceive the necessary connexion between Power or Force & Intelligence or Consciousness. We may certainly in a thousand objects of our senses discover power & force without perceiving any intelligence in them. And tho this Power & Force should be only apparent & the consequence or effect of some other primary cause yet I am certainly to be excused for my thinking it real till it appear otherwise to me as I believe every man is to be excused who does not understand astronomy & thinks that the Sun Moves & this opinion in him cannot in any proper sense be called an absurdity in him.

In the next place I beg you'll give me a Definition of Matter or any other being meerly passive without any Power or Force. Such a being I cannot conceive & therefore as to me does not exist.

You will oblige me exceedingly by giving me your opinion of the Printed treatise or of any part of it without reserve. For my Design only is to discover & to be assured of the Truth. You will find by some parts of that piece that tho' I have the greatest esteem of S^r Isaac Newtons knowledge & performances I take the liberty to differ in opinion from him in some points. That man never existed who never err'd. As I have a great esteem of your Judgement I am very desirous to have your opinion of what I send as soon as may be with your convenience.

I am

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden.

My Dear

I had sent for my horse to be with you this night but before they could be brought up it is so late that I am affray'd of riding in the night after having been exceeding hot by being on the Water in a Sultry day I left New York yesterday morning I am sorry that I cannot give you all the pleasure you expected by my coming up Since your Daughters have not come with me Alsie has the Measles but you may be sure I would not have left her if I had apprehended the least Danger & in further confirmation of it tho' great numbers have had that Distemper none have been in Danger. I know all the care will be taken of her than can be taken. She is at Mr Nicholls's I cannot express the cordial Friendship that all of that family have shown on many occasions Jenny was in good health but would not leave her sister & I did not desire it They were both desirous that I should come up to you for otherwise they thought you would be more uneasy. I am contented that you receive this account before I see you that the pleasure of our meeting may be as little allay'd as possible. Pray my Dear Be not uneasy or as little as possible for I assure you I have no apprehensions of any ill effects from the Measles as none have happen'd to any one in the place Both Jenny & Alsie had wrote to you by Nan but he told me this morning in passing that he forgot the letter at New York & this no doubt adds to your concern. I shall be with you tomorrow morning The Gov^r is going to Albany but I am not to go with him, Cadwallader must be ready to meet him here next Saturday I am in perfect good health Alexander will come up with me tomorrow morning.

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

Newburgh June 18 [1747]

Thursday evening

Indorsed To

M^{rs} COLDEN At Coldenham

[This letter is one year out of place]

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

My Dear

I got to this place next day after I left you about eleven before noon after a very pleasant passage I can give you the pleasure to assure you that I continue in very good health & if this will add to the pleasure that I have so much lost all relish for the Toun that I allready begin to wish to be at home again with you

As Mr Alexander is now in the Jerseys & is to be at home next Saturday night & to return again to the Jerseys next Munday I am obliged to put off my visit to Betty longer than I design'd otherwise I may not have an opportunity to see him while I am in toun. There is little publick News more than what is in the Prints I hear that Tebout the Carpenter has allready got a 100 men to go on the Expedition M^c Intosh about 50 men & Langden about 30 I am sorry to hear that some indiscret behaviour has open'd some peoples mouths against M^c Intosh

Some person from Jamaica says that Coll Beckford told them He had a letter from M^r Clark informing him of M^r Clark's safe arival at London & I am likewise told that M^{rs} Bradley has a letter from London which mentions M^r Clark's safe arival. I know not what to say to M^r Markhams design The raising a Company is made a condition of the Commissⁿ This will be attended with a great expence & if it should fail may ruin a man of small stock But if he can be sure of making up the number I hardly Question but that he may obtain the Commission tho' as I am told there is allready a promise made to fifteen some of them men of very odd Characters I am told that Honeyman has no success & Axtel as litle, M^r Murray & M^{rs} Murray have been both with me on M^r Markhams Acc^t but it was before I had seen the Gov^r or any of the Council I expect to see him (M^r Murray) again before the sloop goes & then if requesite I shall add further. M^r Murray has been with me again & I have

told him that I make no doubt of obtaining a warrant to enlist men with a promise of a Capt^{ns} Commsⁿ if a 100 be made up but whether it may be advisable for Mr Markham to run all the risques that may attend a matter of this nature I must leave to his own reflection Most part of the expence will be reimbursed if things go on as expected but at first there must be an advance of money Now I have no more news to write In one respect I can with great ease to my mind be absent from my private business that I know it is taken care off by you with all possible diligence & yet notwithstanding of this I shall endeavour to return as soon as I can for I shall really have but little pleasure here the whole manner of living is so different from my taste. Mr Kennedy keeps altogether on the other side & comes only for an hour when business calls. Remember me affectionately to all our Children. And pray take care of your own health for nothing can give me more pleasure than to know that you enjoy it with pleasure & I shall endeavour all in my power to your ease & satisfaction both absent & present I am

My Dear

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

New York

June 19th 1746

Mrs. Murray goes up with Cortes

Indorsed

To

Mrs COLDEN at
Coldenham.

*Observations on the Plan of Operations Communicated
by Gov^r Shirley to Gov^r Clinton.*

(In the handwriting of Cadwallader Colden.)

we ought not to be too sanguine in our hopes of Success in war for too many instances are to be found of the Want of Success where there was the least doubt of it especially where the casualties of the Sea are added to all the other

accidents of War All Intelligence between the Army & the Colonies can only be carried on this way with that dispatch which the necessity of affairs may require & therefor this road must be kept open & safe which cannot be while the Ennemies Garison remains at Croun Point For these reasons I should think it advisable that the party which marches by land should make sure of Croun Point in the first place which according to the plan of operations that the Army by sea shall be in St. Laurence river before this party move it may be reasonably expected will not make any considerable defence when they can expect no relief If battering cannon can be carried to Croun Point as I am inform'd they may, that Fort cannot in any case make a defence of six days after the Batteries shall begin to play. The acquisition of this Fort in case of the greatest misfortunes that can happen to the other parts of the Expedition will in a good measure recompence the northern Colonies for their trouble & expence & will give up a prodigious influence over all the Indians & which the French have in a great measure obtain'd by the reputation of that Fort among the Indians

I am of Opinion likewise that it is a mistake in the Scheme from Boston that Provisions and other necessities can be more easily & more speedily & with less expence be carried round by Cape Breton into St Laurence river then by the common passage from Albany For in my opinion such carriage will be with less expence more speedily & with greater safety after Croun point shall be taken. The land Carriage to the wood Creek from Albany is only about sixty miles and all the Way a good Waggon road or without any difficulty or loss of time may be made such & from the Wood Creek to Chambly the Carriage is altogether by water & not near so far as between Cape Breton & Quebec & will be very safe after Croun point shall be taken for it can be exposed to none of the accidents which the navigation in St. Laurence's Bay is exposed to From Chambly to Montreal the distance is only sixteen miles After Croun point shall

be taken small deckt vessels may be built in a very litle time for transporting any thing with the greatest safety The Plank in my opinion may be carried from Albany if none is to be got nearer or at the worst may be saw'd by hand there & the timbers every body knows can be got any where So that in case there be a necessity of the Armies continueing all winter as it is probable it will be necessary if they have any Success this passage will become absolutely necessary for the Passage by St. Lawrence will be shut up by the Sea & if they want success & the army or any part of it be obliged to return that way while that fact remains in the Enemies hands they must come within the sight of Croun Point & may be put to difficulties thereby which we cannot at present imagine for a retiring undisciplin'd army is easily discompos'd & put out of Countenance.

It seems most prudent that the part of the Army that is to go by land should rendezvous near Albany or at farthest at the Wood Creek otherwise every party may be under uncertainties while the communication between them will certainly be cut off or exceedingly obstructed by the French & their Indians & every party more exposed to ambuscades & surprises or even to a superior force before they unite While the Army is thus separated into far distant parties it will be impossible for the general who commands to concert any certain plan or to know whether his orders are obey'd or can be obey'd I likewise am of opinion that the plan concerted at home should be entirely follow'd except where the reasons for altering are very evident & no apparent objections can be made to the alteration

I would propose that the Levies to be rais'd on this Province & in Connecticut which are design'd to go by land should as soon as possible begin to rendezvous near Albany & for that purpose they should begin to encamp some where above that city as soon as possible & that one or two of the independent companies of regular troops encamp with them Huts made of Bark which people used to the woods know how to make will serve

in place of tents & will secure the men from weather even better than tents can do A Hut that will contain ten or a dozen men may be made in two or three hours time by a smaller number of men then are to lodge in it As I have often seen don & have lodged in them My reasons for this are that by this means the men may by degrees be reduced to some kind of discipline & the regular troops will not only help to discipline the others but prevent the disorders which usually attend new levies which are most usually composed of the most diorderly people in the Country. Besides this as the small Pox is in the City of Albany it seems absolutely necessary that the men be kept as much as possible from that place & if it should at any time appear in the Camp that the infected be immediately removed to a proper distance. As one design of the Marching by land is to draw the attention of the Ennemy from Quebec & Montreal where the principal attaks are design'd & may occasion a reuniting of their force there the sooner this is don & the greater show is made the more it will serve this purpose & for this purpose likewise it may not be improper to give out that the chief Design is against Croun Point.

New York June 21st

1746

From John Rutherford

ALBANY 26th June 1746

D^r Sir

I have the favour of yours of the 3^d Inst and your Essay, which I expect great pleasure from & when I have perused it you may depend on my thoughts of it in the freest manner but now the Beating of Drums for the new Levys the attention to news from Canada, Europe & Cape Breton & how preparations are goeing on at New York & the neibouring Provinces for our Grand Enterprize against Canada, makes me write you in a very different Strain & beg your opinion of the manner that affair

is proposed to be carry'd on & what information you can give me of the above articles; As you are I hear now at New York, pray get notice as soon as possible how The new Battillions raised are to be commanded & how the four Companys here are to be disposed of, my present view & ambition being to endeavour to get the Rank of Liet Coll^l by means of these new Levys & at the same time keep my Company in order to have something certain, how I'm to bring this about I have no notion of at present so pray say nothing of my design to any person whatever, only make the necessary enquirys that I may know how to apply by being amongst the first to know how things are to be managed, if you have any Correspondent at Philadelphia or wherever Gen^l Gooch may have occasion to explain himself on that head before he arrives at New York, I beg would write to them about it, as we may by that means have some time to apply, befor things are publickly known here. Pray let me know if any of your Sons are to go & who of those proposeing to raise Companys are likeliest to Succeed. I must insist on your being present here with the Governour when he comes to treat with the Indians for many reasons most of which you can easily guess the rest I'll tell you at meeting & only assure you at present that 'tis necessary for the publick good, & as I depend upon your being my Guest here I'll take care you shall be free from all the noise & hubbub in town, for my house stands in a quite place opposite to the Recorders. Pray be so good as let me hear from you as soon as you receive this to satisfy my Curiosity as to what's allready known relateing to the manner & management of this Expedition. I'm obliged to you for the kind manner in which you invite Mrs. Rutherford & I to your house, but The Scenés changed you see & Instead of our seeing you at Coldingham, we hope & depend upon seeing you at Albany where you may assure yourself of the sincerest wellcome from sir

Your most obed^t humble Servant

JOHN RUTHERFORD

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

[end of June 1746]

My Dear

I have yours of the 22^a & 25th the last of which I receiv'd first. It must give me the greatest concern to hear of any illness you have & more in my absence but it would give me a perpetual anxiety if I thought any thing of that kind were kept from my knowlege As I have been long from the publick business I cannot with any countenance ask leave to return home at this time & it would not be easily granted by the Gov^r unless there were a very evident reason for it but not withstanding of this I wish very heartily to be with you for my being in toun at this time has occasioned a great deal of Jealousy among some folks. To remove it in some measure I design to go tomorrow to Westchester & to be absent 2 or 3 days where I hope to spend the hours with some degree of that pleasure which I enjoy at home The Gov^r desir'd me with some concern to go with him to Albany but I with a great deal of earnestness declin'd it & I hope to hear no more of it. We have no news as yet but every moment in expectation. Now my dear pray give me the pleasure to be assured that you do not in any respect neglect your self that we may have a joyfull meeting which shall be as soon as I can & I know you would not desire my leaving this place in such a manner as might prove prejudicial to my self & family I shall write of the Farm affairs on the other side to John Remember me affectionately to all our Children I wrote to Alexander by Naeks. I left finishing the letter till the Posts came in No News & this evening I receiv'd Alexander^{rs} letter about the Ferry which I have not time to answer but I do not suspect that any thing will be moved in it at this time I am

My Dear

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

Saturday night

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

My Dear

I came yesterday from West Chester where I left Betty in good health & all the Children except that Nancy & Peter had something of the fever and ague. I staid longer there than I would otherwise don in order to have got soon home that I might avoid what other people generally are fond off that is that I might be as litle concern'd in the conduct of affairs as possible but I know not how all things are at a stand & I am affray'd it will not be in my power to keep so much unconcern'd as I wish to be without laying aside all concern for the success of the Expedition & for the success of which I think no man living in this Country can be indifferent. You'l find by what I now write that the time of my return must be very uncertain at this time but tho' I cannot say any thing now as to the time yet in a few days more we must come to something of certainty.

Oliver DeLancey is return'd home He left the Admiral & his Lady at Boston. They are expected soon here So far as I can learn the Admiral is not to go upon the Expedition but designs to return soon to England

We have now certain Accounts several ways that the Rebels are entirely defeated The Duke of Perth & allmost all the Gentlemen kill'd The Pretender's son was not in the battle being sick at Inverness two miles from the place of Battle & that he fled with only two gentlemen in company as soon as he heard of the success of the Kings troops under the Duke of Cumberland. And that they were in pursuit of him Porter from Ireland says he heard the Fleet was saild for Cape Breton before he left Bellfast so that we may expect every moment to hear of their arival This ship belongs to M^r Alexander & they have thoughts of sending her speedily to London I would write by her before I leave this place & for that purpose I want my Brothers direction for his letters to whose care they are to be directed

at Berwick And I would have you likewise look into the Bundle of Papers & letters from M^r Collinson which you'll find in the row of nests next the Chimney in my Closet & there you'll find a letter from Strahan a Printer in which he tells me how to direct for him send me a Copy of this direction likewise I have forgot his Christian name It will be necessary to send these as soon as possible that they may reach me before I return home

The Council is call'd at nine this morning & I write this expecting M^r Clinton every moment to call for it before I go into Council & I think of nothing more to add at this time but to intreat you to take care of yourself that we may have a cheerful meeting which I shall endeavour to have as soon as possible Remember me affectionately to all our dear Children I am

My dear

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

New York

Thursday Morning

July 3^d 1746

Friday morning Yesterday we had a strong debate in Council who should go to Albany with the Gov^r every one were for my going notwithstanding all the opposition I could make to it & I am affray'd it will fall to my lot tho' I still use all my endeavours to avoid it. If I must go I shall return home sooner than otherwise

Cadwallader Colden to Peter Collinson

[Copy]

NEW YORK July 8th 1746

S^r

My Brother James has a Legacy left him of two hundred pounds Pennsylvania money by my Aunt Elizth Hill who a widow formerly liv'd at Philadelphia but for the last years of her life with me & dy'd at my house above

two years since I acquainted him of this by the first opportunity after her Death He desir'd me to remit it to London by any method I should think best there to be paid to Mr James Coutts Merchant in London But as he is not acquainted with Mercantile affairs in any shape his directions to me were very defective & lame I wrote to him for more express orders Since which time I have not heard from him which I attribute to his letters not being properly taken care of at London & as this money has lain dead now above twelvemonths for his orders I at least resolv'd to remit it to you & having purchased a Bill of Excha at Philadelphia I have order'd Mr John Armit my Correspondent there to make the Bill payable to you The reason of my doing so you will find in the inclosed to my Brother in Scotland which I beg the favour of you to take the trouble to read & which I leave open for that purpose afterwards please to close it & forward it to him I beg of you to write to him after you have offerd it for acceptance & inform him of the acceptance of the Bill & of the time that it may be paid & likewise for what sum he may draw on you after commissions & other charges are paid As my Brother has a pretty numerous family I know the money will be usefull to him & I should be sorry he should in any manner suffer by his unskillfullness in Business But at the same time I must take care that my own family do not suffer by my desire to serve him & therefor I write to him to acknowledge in the letter of advice to you that this money is in full for a Legacy of two hundred pounds Pennsylvania Money left him by his & my Aunt Elizth Hill late of Philadelphia widow & that he likewise inclose to you a discharge of the said Legacy to be transmitted to me & that this advice & discharge are the conditions on which the money is to be paid to him or his order Dear Sir I am sorry that my want of acquaintance in London obliges me to give you this trouble but there is a pleasure which good men feel in doing good that I hope will recompence it. I am now obliged to attend our Governor to Albany & the Frontiers of the Province till

our Army shall March from thence on the Expedition against Canada & am therefor obliged to write this letter before I receive the Bills from Philadelphia & to leave it with our friend M^r Alexander to inclose the Bill least the ship should sail before I can have an other opportunity of writing I have receiv'd yours of the 30th of March for which I am much obliged but my thoughts are so much engaged in the publick affairs at this time that I must delay writing on Philosophical subjects to another Opportunity I sent by the snow Sally nine Copies of a little treatise I have printed which is entitled an Explication of the First Causes of Action in matter & of the Cause of Gravitation & shall if I have time send some more by this ship. I am

S^r

Your most obliged
humble servant

& I must beg of you to
send 3 copies or two to
D^r Gronovius or to any
other of your foreign
Correspondents you
shall think proper

I wrote this letter as I was leaving this place at which time M^r Alexander proposed to send a ship in a fortnights time for London but he has alter'd his mind & as I hear of no ship to go from hence till the fall I send this to Philad^{ia} to be forwarded from thence

Cadwallader Colden to James Colden

[Copy]

Dear Brother

I have waited with impatience to hear from you in answer to my last letters in which I imform'd you of the particular directions I expected for remitting the money left you by our Aunt but as I suspect that your letters have met with the same misfortune that many of yours formerly have in not coming to my hands and as that money as I wrote before was ready for your

order & has now lain above twelvemonths useless to you or me in my Correspondents hands at Philad^{ia} I have at last upon the general order you sent me of transmitting it as I should think proper to London made the Bill payable to M^r Peter Collinson Merchant in London to whom enclose this letter & have desir'd to forward to you & to signify to you the acceptance of the Bill & for what sum you may draw on him I did not think it proper to order the money to be paid to M^r Coutts as you proposed to me because of the Rebellion which broke out in Scotland since the writing of your last for as he deals chiefly with Scotland I am suspicious how his affairs may stand at present & I am very confident that I now transmit it to a safe hand & a very honest gentleman There are allwise people in Scotland who want money at London & therefor upon showing this Gentlemans letter to you signifying his having receiv'd the money you will have no difficulty of getting the money on your Bill on this Gentleman But at the same time I must inform you that I have made it a condition of your receiving the money that you write a letter to him in which you shall acknowledge that the sum you draw for is in full for a Legacy of two Hundred pounds Pensylvania Money left you by the last will and Testament of Elizabeth Hill & that you likewise inclose a discharge to me as executor of her Estate to be transmitted by him to me & without this the money will not be paid My Correspondent Mr John Armit at Philadelphia writes to me that he pays at the rate of 180 Pensylvania money for £ 100 sterline & I believe is as low as any Bills of good Credit were got at that time I have directed him to send a particular account with the charge of paying the money & procuring the Bills which I don't doubt will be just but as I am obliged to attend our Governor to the Frontiers of this Province & probably must stay with him till our army march from thence against Canada I leave this letter to be forwarded for London by a friend in this place before I receive the Bills & account from Philad^{ia} for it is probable before I return the opportunity may be lost. I

am now much hurried with the Publick affairs upon this extraordinary occasion & therefor you must excuse my not giving you a particular account of my family It is now three weeks since I left them My Daughter De Lancey & my son Cadwallader have each a daughter since I last wrote both of them named Alice after my wife. I hope they are all in good health as I am Remember me affectionately to my Sister & your Children

Cadwallader Colden to John Armit.

[Copy]

M^r Armit I am now in much hurry by the publick business just upon my setting out from this place in my way to Albany & therefor can only refer you to the inclosed in placing of writing particularly to your self Please to send one of the Bills which you purchased for me by the first opportunity together with these letters to M^r Peter Collinson I am

Your humble servant

NEW YORK July 19th 1746

From Benjamin Franklin

Sir

I have your Favours of June 2^d and the 7th Instant. I thank you for your little Treatise. I have interleav'd it, and am Reading it and Making Remarks as Time permits. I deliver'd one, as you directed, to M^r Evans; another to M^r Bertram. The former declares he cannot understand it; the latter told me the other Day, that he could not read it with the necessary Attention, till after Harvest, but he apprehended he should find it out of his Reach. I have not Seen M^r Logan since I sent him one. Two other Gentlemen to whom I gave each one, have not yet given me their Opinions; and in Truth I

think you are somewhat too hasty in your Expectations from your Readers in this Affair. There are so many Things quite new in your Piece, and so different from our former Conceptions and Apprehensions, that I believe the closest and Strongest Thinker we have amongst us, will require much longer Time than you seem willing to allow before he is so much a Master of your Scheme, as to be able to Speak pertinently of it. Indeed those whose Judgment is of Value, are apt to be cautious of hazarding it: But for my Part, I shall, without Reserve, give you my Thoughts as they rose, knowing by Experience that you make large candid Allowances to your Friends. In a Post or two more I shall send them, with M^r Logan's Sentiments, if he will give them me, as I intend to see him in a few Days. D^r Mitchel (as you will see by the enclos'd, which please to return me) is gone to England. I have sent one of your Pieces to M^r Rose

I wish our Governor would go to Albany, for I imagine the Indians have some Esteem for him. But he is very infirm of late; and perhaps your Governor has not invited him in such a Manner as to make him think his Company would be really acceptable. Of this, however, I know nothing. If you go, I heartily wish you a safe and pleasant Journey, with Success in your Negotiations. I am, with much Respect, Sir

Your most hum^l Serv^t

Philad^a July 10, 1746

B FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To

The Hon^l CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
New York

Free

B FRANKLIN

Cadwallader Colden to James Alexander

Dear S^r

ALBANY July 23^d 1746

I have yours of the 14th by M^r Livingston I am much obliged to you for your care of my litle affairs. I

think it may be proper to send one of the Bills, by your ship way of Jamaica & for that purpose I give you the trouble of a line to M^r Collinson The Gov^r came ashore at this place yesterday & in the afternoon was presented with two Scalps of French men killed in the sight of the French Fort at Croun Point & the Scalp taken off one of them at noon day within a hundred paces of the Gate The party consisted only of two Onondagas & one Oneydo Their Captⁿ on this occasion made a speech to His Excell^y wherein he set forth his grief at hearing of the Bloodshed of his Brethren by the French Indians. That he was in hopes from the great Professions of Friendship by the Mohawks that they would have revenged this Injury but as he found their friendship was more in their lips than in their hearts his heart could bear no longer & therfor he was resolved to open the Path for revenge which he had now don by taking these two Scalps at noon day in sight of the French Garison at Croun point His Excell^y has rewarded them to their Satisfaction & bestow'd the name of the Opener of the Path on the Captⁿ which to him is equal to a Knighthood We have now several parties of Indians out against the French so that I hope the Indian affairs may go better than was expected I am

S^r

Yours

CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

JAMES ALEXANDER Esq
New York

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD July 24, 1746

S^r

I now fulfill my promise to you in sending Bp Berkeley De Motis which I doubt not but you will read & consider with that Care & exactness with which it appears

you wrote your self, & then I shall be glad of your opinion of it when you have throughly canvassed it, for it appears to me to be a Curious piece & to deserve two or three readings, it being wrote in a very close & concise Stile.—I hope to have given a better acc^t of your piece by this time, but I have lent it to two or 3 thinking men in these parts & have not had opportunity to give it a second reading. As soon as it is returned to me, I have engaged it to the president of y^e College.—I herewith Send you a Copy of my late peice of Morals, Such as it is, & shall be thankful to you to Suggest any Corrections that it stands in need of (which doubtless are many) there being some discourse at Boston, I hear of a Second Impression.—I am

S^r y^r most humble Serv^t

SA. JOHNSON.

To C. COLDEN Esq^r

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

ALBANY July 24th 1746

My Dear

We did not get to this place till Monday afternoon & did not go a shoar till tuesday morning. I am now at Captⁿ Rutherfords but their house is not very convenient & I am affray'd it may be troublesome to them M^{rs} Rutherford has had a violent headack ever since I came but was better last night The Indians are not arived to meet the Gov^r nor no accounts from them. His Excelly in the afternoon of the day he came a shoar was presented with two French men's Scalps taken in sight of the Gate of Croun point Fort by three of our Indians so that we now begin to make reprisals & [severa] l of our Indians are out against the French I am [told] near 30 in number in 3 or 4 parties. Now you have all the [ne]ws since my arival. I have my health perfectly well [since] I can frequently hear of your health & the Childrens [I can]

pass the time with less regret at a distance from you [than I] expected because I am likely to get my thoughts constantly imploy'd Remember me affectionately to the Children You tell me that you do not love short letters but you must excuse me at this time for both my time & thoughts are imploy'd so as to take them off from all those subjects that are most agreeable to my taste I am

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To
M^{rs} COLDEN at
Coldenham

24 July 1746—The Com^{rs} of Indian Affairs Answer to his Ex^{ty}s Order in Council 23 July 1746.

Read in Council 24 July 1746.

Present	Att a Meeting of the Commission-
Myndert Schuyler	ers of Indian Affairs the 24 th Day
Hendrick Ten Eyck	of July 1746
John Depeyster	
John Lansing Ju ^r	
Dirck Tenbroeck	
Cornelis Cuyler	
Esq ^{rs} Com ^{rs}	

In Answer to the Order of his Excellency and Council of the 23^d Instant By what appears to us the Indians are Unwilling to engage in the War Carrying on against the French in Canada as we have acquainted his Excellency from time to time according to the Information we received as may appear by our Minutes

That the four Block Houses which were burnt down at Saratoga are rebuilt New Stockadoes sett up, New Gates made A Large House built in the middle of the Fort the length of three Boards for the Indians, A Good Large Oven to bake Bread in, But no Well we know off, No particular Place made for keeping Gun Power free from Danger, Only one of the Chimneys is carried up to

a proper height, No Bricks being to be gott in the Winter Season when the fort was rebuilt We know not of any Surgeon appointed to take Care of the Sick in Saratoga Garrison

By Order of the Com^{rs}
of Indian Affairs

J^A. STEVENSON D S
of Indⁿ Aff^{rs}

The Examination of an Indian

AT A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT
M^r LIVINGSTONS HOUSE the 26 JULY 1746

Present

The Hon^{bl} { CADWALLADER COLDEN
P. LIVINGSTON
JNO RUTHERFURD } Esq^{rs}

an Indian who came from Saraghtoga being called in was examined as followeth viz^t

he was asked how long he was going to Crown Point. he answered 7 days

ab^t 6 early in the morning 3 Indians out of 7 went near the Fort at Crown Point That this Indian went to drink & returnd agⁿ whereupon another with him went to drink agⁿ & then they heard a Gun fir^d & that a French man was killed, but cou'd not be scalp'd upon Acc^t of a number of People sallying from the Fort.

He was asked if he saw any Tents or any appearance of an Army near the Fort or ab^t the River, to w^{ch} he answered he saw no Tents or Wigwams, but fires

That there was a great many Indians at Crown point & that a 1000 more were expected & when they arrived they woud take Council w^t to do.

He was asked how came it to pass that his Comrade was allow'd to escape from the French after he was taken prisoner

them They Answered they had not Invited them, But their priest had Sent a message to them without their knowledge.

Aaron Said he Expected the french Indians would Speek to them first, but when they perceived they would not, They told what was their business That they were come to see what they meant to Engage in the War, for they were at peace and in Strict Alliance with one another not only as Allies but Brethren of the same flesh and Blood, and that none of one Nation but of all the Six nations together, They told them they were ashamed that they had been so foolish to shed one another's Blood in former times that the same body ought not to prey on it Self, That this was a war Entered into by the Two Kings of England and france and that their Nations were to Stand neuter, Therefore they desired them to Consider what they were about, for It might return on their own heads, For they must Expect It would oblige them to begin and If once the Indians Engage in war amongst themselves they will never leave off but Continue the war while one of the six Nations are alive, Altho' the white people Should make peace Amongst themselves and this they repeated Three times, and desired they would return to their Sences for they Spoake in name of all the Six Nations Then they threw down a Belt and Told them they would say the same to all the Caghnawages.

Next day the french Indians Answered Brethren

It is All true you have said, we are in Alliance with one another, we acknowledge our forefathers have been asleep or drunk and what you have said three times over is All True, But It Cannot be helped now, For your Father the King of England took Cape Breton last year and then our Father the Governour of Canada putt the Hatchet into our hands, and we Could not refuse It For if we Should sit still, till he be killed then we would all be dead men, so we Choose to die with him, for he has Always Carried us under his Arm.

As soon as we received this Answer we proceeded to Caghnawage and on our Way thither mett with some Orondax Indians who had Two Scalps which they had gott from some mahikanders which the Mahikanders had gott At Green Bush, The Orondax themselves had been out butt gott neither prisoners nor scalps. When we Came to Caghnawage and the usual formalities past We Intended to Speak first but they prevented us and forbid us to Speak Saying We will not hear you before the Governour has heard what you have to Say So you must Speak to him first.

We were altogether in One house They in one End and we in the other we Called to one of the french Indians and Shewed them the Wampum we had received from the gray head, and asked them whether that was not the Wampum they Sent to Invite us to Speak with them They Answered no, but it was the Wampum they had Sent to Lett us know they had Entered in the War. from Caghnawage we went to montreal where we were told the Governour would be in five days But we waited Twenty five days before he came and then it was Two days more before we spoake with him

First we Condoled the death of Severall great persons According to Custom, but we had resolved to Speak of no message sent to us, but only of our Old Treaties which we did with Eight Belts of Wampum we said we are Come once more to pay what we Have so often said before, we were here last year but since that much mischief is done to Our Brethren and the path Stopt, Therefore we come to See If It Cannot yet be laid aside, and the path kept open and Clear, for If Butt one of our people be killed then the War can never Stop while one of us Live, and this is the Last time we will Treat about it, here they gave a Belt.

The Governour Answered Next day

I have heard what you Say concerning the Treaties between me & you. You Always Said that Ossweego must remain and that the path must be kept open; on your

Account, I have let Oswego house remain till now, nevertheless I will do as I think proper for the future.

What you say of keeping the Path open, That your Governour has Stopt, for when I sent Ambassadors to Boston they were not suffered to go through, and were not permitted to sell their own Beaver which was Contrary to the Treaties Subsisting, there they sitt you may ask them, your Request cannot be granted I will hear no more on that Subject, what do you mean by Sending your people To Saratoga I will not Suffer you to do It, do you think to Encroach on my Country by degrees, I tell you, you must withdraw your people from thence, for I am determind to fight to the Last, Therefore take away your People from Saratoga that they be not killed there. Upon the Governour of Canada's telling us this we perceived nothing was to be done so we made ready and came away as fast as we could. The Orondax took up their Bundles and told the governour they would go Ly on the Rifts and see to gett Prisoners. So they think they narrowly Escaped.

Aaron Says further that a Caghnawage Indian who was friend and not Inclined to Enter into the War told him in private That Montreal Was Full of far Indians and That An Expedition was Intended against Albany, That as soon as they (That is Aaron and his Company) were gone An Army would Sett out with All Speed, That they were still Expecting More Indians, but That none would be sent out a scalping Till the Expedition was Ready

A True Copy Examined

and Compared by

JA. STEVENSON D S of Indⁿ Aff^{rs}

From Peter Collinson

My Dear Sr

LONDⁿ Aug^t 3^d 1746

I was Delighted to read y^{rs} of 20th June Ult^o and hope in a few Days to Receive y^r packett w^{ch} I shall communi-

cate only to those that are able to comprehend your Scheme & I hope to give you their Sentiments

At the Surprising phenomenon of Electricity Engages the Vertuosi in All Europe I here Send you for the thsent what has been done in France & with us, I have marked those Experiments that I have felt & can vouch for the Facts—but there is a great Variety of others too Long to tell you in a Letter

Doc^r Mitchell Is here & finds great amendment—I heartily wish Success may attend your Expedition Some Short acco^t of It will be very acceptable—By the Death of the King of Spain Wee hope for some favourable Turn in our publick affairs a Battle in Flanders is Dayly Expected which will thadventure Determine the Fate of Europe as to peace or Warr But Wee hope Good providence will Influeⁿe the First Which Wee all Desire—Our Legislator at thsent is very Busie in Doing Justice to the Rebel Lords & Commons by the takeing Secretary Many a Large Laid deep Designe is Discover'd to overthrow our present happy Establishment I with many others are much concern'd that Some provinces has Such poor Mercenary Creaturs appointed ov^r them Gov^r Shirley is Deservedly Admired whose name will ever be Dear to posterity M^r Scroope is So much Engaged that I never could Learn his Sentiments y^r Curious papers are under the perusal & M^r Rockcliff Merc^t who resided some Time ago in Philadelphia when I have them from Him My Lord Lonsdale is Desirous to peruse them who is a Nobleman of uncommon Genius & Devotes his Time to all Sorts of Natural Inquiries, your Tract of Gravity may not be unacceptable & to the Earl of Macclesfield & our president & to the Ingenious M^r Grayham as Vegetables happen in y^r way gather Seeds by way of amusement I hope the French at least will not be behind hand in their Complements for y^r Favors

After our Worthy friend M^r Alexander has perused the Electrical papers I have desired to oblige you with the perusal of them I am Truly y^{rs}

P COLLINSON

[Indorsed]

For

Doc^r COLDEN

These.

*Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden*ALBANY Aug 4th 1746

Munday

My Dear

I have yours of the 26th of July John's of the 27th & Alex^{rs} of the 28th This is the third I have wrote to you since I came to this place & goes by way of Esopus. John in his tells me that a letter was thrown a shore from me Yours gives me the greatest pleasure to learn that you are all in health & is the greatest Satisfaction I have had since I came to the place We are constantly imploy'd about something or other but it will be hard to say what we have don. The Indians are not yet arived but I hear they are now very near & that we may expect them tomorrow if they be not stopt by the Interpreters sickness who we hear is very ill. By John's Account of the Farm work we must expect to meet with many disapointments this year but we must live in hopes that the future will be better. I have not time to write to him nor to any else & I must leave every concern of my family to you & indeed I have no uneasiness about it from the long experience I have had of your care. I am as well in every respect as I can be in this place my time is divided allmost between the Gov^{rs} house & Captⁿ Rutherfords & I can assure you that I have all the diversion that the time & place will allow & that I have not in many years been more cheerfull nor my health better tho' the place be a litle sickly no doubt it is magnified by reports but none of our acquaintance have had any uneasiness except M^{rs} Rutherford who still continues ill of a slow nervous fever The troops are now drawing together here so that in a litle time we shall have great numbers of men christians & Indians about this place. Gen^l Gouch has been taken ill & does not come we know not who is to command in his place M^r Thomas Gov^r of Pensylvania is talkt of but I know of no foundation for it. Captⁿ Rutherford & his Lady make their complements to you all & so does D^r

Colhoun Remember me affectionately to Alex^r & Cad & their wives Jane Alice John David & Katy I shall be pleas'd to hear from them seperately tho I cannot promise to answer their letters. Coll Gaasbeek & M^r Crook are here to make interest the one for his son the other for his brother to be Lieutenants under Broadhead & I suppose they have succeeded. Pray take care of your self as you love

Your most affectionate
CADWALLADER COLDEN

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

ALBANY Aug 10th 1746

My Dear

My last to you was by way of Esopus I have only one from you of the 26th of last month. I have continued in perfect good health ever since I left you & now the long expected Indians are at last come but the Gov^r has not as yet spoke to them But the greatest uneasiness is from our not knowing who is to be General since Gouch cannot come & from our hearing nothing of the Fleet One day as the Gov^r complain'd of the trouble he had with the Provisions & that he did not know who to trust I took the opportunity to recommend my son to be Commissary for Provisions. This as I take it will be more profitable then a Capt^{ns} Commissⁿ as it usually has a good Sallery annexed to it but the Commission cannot be made certain till the General arive because perhaps he may have the nomination but tho' it should be so the Gov^{rs} Interest with Captⁿ Rutherfords & my own my obtain it if he do not bring one with him For this purpose I would have had Cadwallader to come to this place under pretence to visit me but in reality to be in readiness to receive the Commissⁿ & enter on the duty at the Gen^{ls} arival But upon reflection that the small Pox is all over this toun I cannot wish to see him here for if he get the small pox & he can hardly hope to escape it, that will disable him from receiving the Com-

missⁿ besides the danger of his life. I cannot tell that Alex^r would receive such a Commissⁿ because they must go along with the Army but I could more freely recommend him to it than Cad because he is more used to business & will require much writing & exactness of Accounts. I leave it to you & them to do as you shall think proper because I cannot advise any further it is attended with so many uncertainties only I would not let such an offer pass without giving my children an opportunity of using it if they think fit. The sloop is going & obliges me to break off & write in a hurry M^{rs} Rutherford is much better. Remember me affectionately to all the Children A Party of Captⁿ M^cIntosh's men suffer'd themselves to be foolishly surprised by the French Indians & have lost nine men kill'd. This will keep all more upon their Guard. Pray take care of your self Keep your self from uneasy thoughts about me for I am in every respect safe & as well as I can be from my own family I am

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at

Coldengham

To be left with M^r Alexander

Colden at Newburgh

or Rich^d Nicholls Esq at

New York.

4 R^d August 19

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

My Dear

ALBANY Aug 11th Munday 1746

I was exceedingly pleas'd to have yours by Frank Beatty for I was desirous of a safe hand to send the inclosed which I had wrote yesterday. Open that directed to Alex^r & you'll find one within it for your self. I am obliged to be at a Conference with the Boston Com^{rs} by nine this morning & we are now in the heighth of our Business with the Indians & therefor I must still make a short letter. I cannot think that any report of my going to Crown point would forward the Levies

if I had any inclination to it perhaps I might propose to my self what some others would be very desirous off but my desires at present are confined to my own family & I wish soon with you but when that shall be I cannot tell. However you'll find by the inclosed that one of your son's may have an opportunity of seeing Crown point & perhaps Canada too if they will therefore I must desire an answer to the inclosed as to either of their inclinations to accept of being Commissary for Provisions as soon as possible & if they like it either of them they had best come immediately up under pretence to see me for I think we cannot be much longer under the uncertainties we now are. The small Pox only lays me under difficulties as to Cad for if he should get that it will entirely disappoint all But notwithstanding that I make no doubt of the Gov^{rs} Disposition to serve me in this It may entirely depend on the General & we still know not who will be General We think probably one from England who comes with the fleet & we have no certainty of the Arival of the Fleet as yet. The Quarter of the Meadow should be now sown as soon as may be & I wish the other could be plowd so as to sow this fall but the summer fallow must not be neglected Put two plows in if you can & get what assistance of hands you can if necessary to thrash & clean the seed. I have yours of the 26th of last & 2^d of this month. I have wrote several w^{ch} I find are not come to hand Remember me affectionately to all the Children I long much to be with you & them I am

Your most affectionate
CADWALLADER COLDEN

M^{rs} Rutherford is much better & I believe would be soon well if she could hear of a Peace I wrote one letter to you by M^r Crook way of Esopus

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at
Coldenham
5 R - d Aug. 19

Information of the State of Canada Taken at Albany

[Memoranda of Cadwallader Colden]

Aug. 1746

Mr Hansen was at Chambly in 1738 and at Montreal 1736

Mr J Cuyler at Quebec in the Winter 1726

The River as he is inform'd that the River never freezes fast at Quebec but the River full of Ice

At a 100 foot from the Wall of Quebec any vessel may ride the Water rise 8 or 9 foot upon the Wall & at low Water may fall 50 foot

In the Bay below the town the tide leaves the bay dry sand & the Creek may be passed but within musket shot of the Town

In the land the Creek is deep & Intrenchments on the South side of the Creek

It is impossible to land above Quebec on the Northside from Quebec to 12 leagues above it at a place called Platon the Banks being a high precipice

Vessels as big as the Albany sloops go up to Montreal of about 40 foot keel go up to Montreal & they have seen small vessels from the West Indies there

The Lake above Trois rivieres is shallow

They seldom sail in the night in loaded Vessels

A Loaded Vessel cannot by force of oars be carried up to Montreal without Wind

The strong stream is from Montreal to Sorel 15 leagues sometimes a Vessel may be a Month from Quebec to Montreal

Montreal surrounded with a Wall & Bastions The Wall every where made thick with earth fill'd in upon the back of it No Ditch without the Wall

Twice as many men at Montreal than at Quebec

The length of Montreal 2200 paces towards the land & about a quarter of that on the opposite side

Not above 350 houses in Montreal

30 companies in Canada each of 30 or 28 & these are dispersed some of them in all the Indian County

The Island of Montreal full of People

About 150 men at La prairie the finest land in Canada
More people between Trois rivieres and Montreal than
between Trois rivieres & Quebec

About 200 Cachnuaga 100 Kanessedaga & about 300 of
other including wenaquuga

About 2 or 3000 men on the Island

Trois rivieres a small place not so big as Schenectady
more people under the Gov^t of Montreal than in the Gov^t
of Qubec

Mr Hanson thinks that the French & Indians may make
10000 men & he does not think they can make 15000

No settlement above 2 leagues from the River He com-
putes that there are more men in the Province of New
York than in all Canada

One privateer with 150 men may destroy all to Quebec
The mouth of the river at Crown point between 3 & 400
yds wide

An exceeding bad road between Chambly & La prairie 12
miles a bad road miry & full of roots of trees.

*An intended speech to be made at our last conference
wth ye Indians in August 1746*

Brethren

It is at the desire of His Excellency Governour Clin-
ton, whom our Father the King has appointed to repre-
sent him in this His Majesty's Colony of New York, That
we the Com^{rs} of the Province of the Massachusets Bay
are here at this time, and it is with his Consent that we
speak to you now in this plan: We were very desirous
to have join'd together, and that His Excellency should
have spoken to you in our Name, as well as for himself
and this People, as His Majesty's Governour here; but
the Kings Service makes a longer stay necessary for the
Governour, than is requisite for us, by which as he will
have opportunity to speak to more of You, than he can
now, so he will also be able to speak more fully about
some Particulars, than he can at this time; We assure
you, it is not because we have different tho'ts or Views;
for we act in concert, and there is a perfect Harmony

between this Government & the Massachusetts Bay, which we represent,

We do therefore now express our great joy, that we see so many of our Antient and unfailing Friends & Brethren met together, and we heartily bid you welcome.

We do also, in behalf of his Majesty's good Subjects of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, Ratify confirm & establish all former Treaties, covenants & engagements with You, for yourselves and for the Six united Nations, assuring You that we shall ever hold the same Sacred and inviolable and that we depend upon the same from you

A Belt of Wampum.

Brethren

We meet you in this interview in consequence of our former Alliance & Covenants, to consult and mutually assist each other in carrying on an Expedition against the French our inveterate Enemies in Canada; This Enterprize our Gracious Father the King has engaged in, to deliver you & us his Children from the Murders and other Cruelties, Our Old and Constant Enemies the French in Canada, have always been bringing & endeavoring to bring upon us, You and we too, have at one time or other tasted deeply of their cruel & inhuman Dispositions, and we must expect always to do it, when it is any way in their Power, for it is their avowed and sworn principal to destroy all Hereticks, that is, all that use their Reason, will believe only the Truth, & reject and Despise Lyes & Ridiculous Falshoods, of which their Religion is in a great Measure made up. You and we are all Witnessess How glad we should have been to have lived in Peace with the eastern & Cagnawago Indians, but these our restless Enemies the French, never left till they constrained those Indians to do mischiefs & commit Murderous Cruelties upon us contrary to the most solemn Covenants ratify'd, Establish't & Sealed by Belts of Wampum in the most Publick manner, & with all other the most Sacred & binding Ceremonies possible Our Gracious Father the King has determined, by the help

of God, to deliver you and us from these French: this Thorn in our sides, & he calls for your help as well as ours, & particularly expresses his Confidence & Expectations of your whole weight in this Expedition; Think of your Country which the French have ravag'd & plundered, Remember your Fathers whom these Merciless Enemies Murdered at Mount Royal in cold Blood, and put to the most exquisite Torments. Our Father the King feels our Soverings for us, and can no longer bear them, but is resolved to revenge our Wrongs; Let us not be wanting to our selves: let us consider the prospect we have of Success, a great Number of Ships and Forces already arrived and waiting at Cape Breton, a much greater Number of both hourly expected from England, where we have certain advice they lay ready for Sealing above two Months ago: The united force of this Government of New York, The Jerseys Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia by Land: The Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island by Sea, Each Single Government except two, superior in Number to all Canada; & taken together at least twenty to one: and what are their Indians compared with you, & your Allies. Be the true Successors of your Fathers. Let their Bravery animate You, they never had an Enemy that rose against or abused you, but they made them repent, or destroyed them; The Blood of Your and our Father calls for Vengeance: God has heard it and opened a Door, Let us follow providence and never leave till wee have brought the French in Canada to repentance & an incapacity to renew their Old Crimes, or have destroy'd them, God has owned our Kings righteous cause, The French King pretended great Friendship while the War was carrying on against Spain, but all at onct declared war, Yet our King has had great Success; He has taken a vast Number of the French Ships, ruined their Trade, broke their Merchants taken Cape Breton their Strongest Fortress in America, can starve Canada by keeping out all Supplies at his Pleasure, This Year the French pretended to invade great Britain & sent a Poor Beggar from

Rome a biggotted Papist to be our King, but what has become of this Project, the French are all taken Prisoners, The Poor Rebels cut to Pieces or in chains except a few miserable wretches that are Sculking about in Holes to avoid our Kings Son the Duke of Cumberland who beat and distroyed them.

Consider what you will get if you lie still & do nothing the French can neither supply You nor themselves but at the Pleasure of our King, a Number of the Kings Ships will be always about Cape Breton, these can easily stop the Mouth of Canada River, & no Supplies can come any other way, if it should be said, that the French King will take Cape Breton back again, any body may reply he must first look our Fleet in the Face, which he has not been able to do these fifty Years, nor have the French and Spaniards both together dared to do it all this War the French can do nothing against Cape Breton, but by a Superior Force at Sea, which they are very far from having Our Father the King treats you and us as his Subjects & his Children, & offers to fit us out with Arms Ammunition Clothing & every thing we want to be his Soldiers Let us like Men take up the Hatchet fight his Battles & Pray and not doubt but the God of Armies will be with us & prosper us. This is what you promist in the last Treaty as well as before. This is to Act like your selves, Men of Bravery & Honour.

A Belt with a Wampum Hatchet.

COPY OF HIS EXC^y THE HON^{BLE} GEORGE CLIN-
TON'S SPEECH TO THE SIX NATIONS
OF INDIANS & RIVER INDIANS.
WITH THEIR ANSWERS THERETO. . . .

Propositions made by his Excel-
lency The Honourable George
Clinton Esq^r Captain General and
Governour in Chief in an over the
Province of New York &c.

At Albany the 19: Aug^t 1746

PRESENT

His Excellency

CADWALLAD^R COLDEN

PHILIP LIVINGSTON

JOHN RUTHERFORD

Esq^{rs} of the Council

The Commissioners from the Govern^t of the Mass-
achusetts Bay

The Commissioners for Indian Affairs

The Mayor & Corporation of Albany

And Several Gentlemen attending his Excellency
and the

Commissioners upon this occasion

His Excellency addressed himself to the Indians as
followeth

BRETHREN

I am glad to see so many of our Ancient Friends here
& I heartily bid you wellcome.

Three Strings of Wampum

I have call'd you to this place for two great ends, in which
the Province of the Massachusetts Bay have sent Com-
missioners to concur with me, who are here present.

The first is to renew the Covenant Chain with You,
and I now by this Belt in your Father the King of Great
Britains Name, in behalf of all his Majestys Subjects in
North America, renew & confirm the Covenant Chain,

& all former Treaties & engagements entered into with you. This Chain has from the beginning remained so firm and strong, that it has never once broke or slipt since it was first made, & we, on our parts, shall endeavour that it remain so, unshaken, as long as the Sun & Moon shall endure.

Chain Belt

BRETHREN

Last fall I told you that his Majesty's Subjects in this Country, had the Summer before lain still without attempting anything against the French Settlements; but that the French had by Surprize Attacked & destroyed a small place near Cape Breton belonging to us.

That they afterwards laid Siege to Annapolis Royal and were beat off.

I likewise told you that the Governour of the Massachusetts Bay, in Conjunction with Connecticut, & New Hampshire had, in Revenge to these Injuries, sent an Army against Louisbourg in the Island of Cape Breton, that this Army was Joined by a Number of his Majestys Ships of War, under the Command of Your Friend Admiral Warren. I told you that the Town of Louisbourg, which is the strongest the French have in America, was reduced by this Force, & that the French there, had surrendered^d themselves, and their Country to the English.

I likewise told you, how we, in this part of y^e Country, had lain still, hoping that the French in Canada would either be quiet or carry on the War in a manly manner, & after the manner of Christians, & to induce them thereto, a Message had been sent from this place, to the Governour of Canada, to tell him that if he should revive the inhumane Custom of Murdering private People, by Sculking Indians, that the several Governours of His Majesties Colonies together with You our Brethren of the Six Nations wou'd join, and make reprisals on them in the like manner, at which time You Publickly declared, that if any of his Majestys Subjects in any of his Governments should be Killed by any Indians, you

would immediately join in the War, against them and the French.

And last fall when I delivered the Hatchet into your Hands, you told me and confirm'd it with a Belt, that you would send some of your People (who were then ready) to Canada to demand satisfaction and that if Satisfaction were refused you would use the Hatchet against them when ever I should Order it, & you further promis'd that if the Enemy shou'd commit any further hostilities you wou'd then (upon my commands) immediately make use of the Hatchet.

I need not tell You how far the French have been from giving any Satisfaction, on the contrary, you are all well informed of the Cruel & barbarous murders that have been committed, since that time, by the French & Indians at Saraghtoga and in the Neighbourhoods of this place & on the Frontiers of New England. And as you have not hitherto Fullfill'd your promises, I suspect that they did not come from your hearts; I therefore by this Belt demand an immediate performance of your promises to show that they come from the bottom of your hearts, as all the promises I make come from mine & ever shall.

BELT

BRETHREN

I shall next inform you of some other particulars Before this War broke out, between your Father the King of Great Britain & the French King, The French pretended great Friendships to our King, and that they were very desirous to make up all differences between our King, and the King of Spain who were then at War together; when on a sudden The French declared War against the King Your Father, in hopes to catch him unprepared; but as he well knew how little trust was to be put in French professions of Friendship, they did not find him unprepared, as they hoped: On the Contrary they found the Seas almost covered with his Majesties ships of War, and great numbers of the French ships

were every Where taken, and their Merchants thereby ruined.

Last fall the French by artfull insinuations, and flattering promises, perswaded a considerable Number of his Majesties Subjects who lived in remote Parts of the Country, at a great distance from his Majesties residence, to rise in Rebellion. The French giving them hopes of great Assistance in Men Money & Arms but (tho' the French sent them what assistance they could) these deluded people were this Spring, attacked by our Kings Troops under the command of one of our Kings Sons, and they and the French were all cut to pieces or made Prisoners, except a few who escaped into the Mountains, and who have nothing now remaining of life, but to bewail the Misery they have brought upon themselves, their Wives, & Children, by trusting to such deceitfull people as the French are. This may serve as a memorial to them who trust to French promises, and Know not to put a sufficient value on the Friendship & Protection of the King Your Father.

BRETHREN

I now come to the Second and Principal design of our present meeting In w^{ch} I hope & expect to find you hearty & United in Your Councils & Opinions A Belt. The King Your Father having been informed of the unmanly Murders committed on the Frontiers of New England, and of this Province, is resolved to Subdue the Country of Canada, and thereby to put an end to all y^e mischievous designs of the French in these parts, and for this purpose, he has ordered his Governours of Virginia, Maryland, Pensylvania, & New Jersey, to join their Forces, to the Forces of this Province, to Attack Canada by Land. They are all now upon their March, & you will soon see them meet here.

At the same time the Forces of the Massachusetts Bay, Connecticot, Rhode Island, & New Hampshire, are to go in ships to Cape Breton, and their join with his Majestys Ships of War, and a great Army of experienced Soldiers from Great Britain. Many Ships of War,

are already arrived there, & some Thousands of Soldiers, many more Ships, & Thousands of Soldiers are following, and I expect every hour to hear of their Arrival, after which, the Attack upon Canada, will be made on all sides, both by Sea & Land.

You may perceive that the King has ordered a strength sufficient of itself to subdue Canada, but at the same time, the King your Father, expects & Orders you his Children, to Join with your whole Force in this Enterprise, & thereby gives the Six Nations, a glorious opportunity, of Establishing their Fame & Renown over all the Indian Nations in America, in the conquest of Your Inveterate Enemies the French, who, however they may dissemble, and profess Friendship, can never forget the Slaughter which your Fathers made of them, and for that purpose, caress those Nations, who have always been your most Inhumane Enemies, & who desire nothing so much as to see the Name of the Six Nations become decay'd, & forgot forever.

BRETHREN

The French, on all occasions, shew, that they Act against your Brethren the English like Men that know they dare not look them in the Face, in Day light, and therefore like Thieves steal upon poor People, who do not expect them in the Night, & consequently are not prepared for them; Your Brethren, in their Revenge, have acted like Men of Courage, they do not attack poor Farmers at their Labour; but boldly attempted the Reduction of Louisbourg, the strongest Town the French had in America, in the Fortifying of which, they had spent above Twenty years, it was surrounded with strong walls, and Forts, in which they had planted their largest Cannon in every place, where, they thought the English could come near them, & Notwithstanding of all these precautions, and Advantages, they were forced to Submit to the English Valour [Now we invite our Brethren to share with us, in the Glory of the Conquest, of your Cruel and Cowardly Enemies the French, in Canada] You must have heard from your Fathers, and I doubt

not several of your Old Men still remember What the French did at Onondaga, How they Surprized your Countrymen, at Cadarackue. How they invaded the Sennekas, and what Mischief they did to the Mohawks. How many of Your Country Men have suffered by the fire at Montreal. Before they entered upon these cruel & mischievous Designs, they sent Priests among you to delude you & lull you asleep while they were preparing to knock you in the Head; and I hear they are attempting to do the same now. BELT I need not put you in mind what revenge Your Fathers took for these Injuries, when they put all the Island of Montreal, and a great part of Canada to Fire & Sword. Can you think that the French forget this, No they have the Ax privately in their hands ag^t you & use these deceitfull Arts, by which only, they have been able to gain advantage over you that by trusting to them, they may at some time or other, at one blow, remove from the Face of the Earth, the Remembrance of a People, that have so often put them to shame & flight. If Your Fathers cou'd rise now out of their Graves, how would their hearts leap with joy to see this day, when so glorious an Opportunity is put into their Hands, to revenge all the Injuries their Country has receiv'd from the French, and to be never more exposed to their Treachery & deceit. I make no doubt you are the true Sons of such renowned & Brave Ancestors, Animated with the same Spirit: for your Countrys Glory, and in revenge of the Injuries Your Fathers receiv'd, incapable of being deluded by the Flattering Speeches of them, who always have been, & always must be, in their hearts, your Enemies, and who desire nothing more, than the Destruction of your Nations. I therefore invite you Brethren, by this Belt, to Join with us, and to share with us, in the honour of the Conquest of our, and your Deceitfull Enemies, and that you not only Join all the Force of the Six Nations with us, but, likewise invite all the Nations depending on you, to take a share, in this Glorious Enterprize. And I will Furnish your Fighting Men, with Arms, Ammunition, Cloathing, Pro-

visions, and every thing Necessary for the War, and in their Absence shall take care of their Wives & Children

THE WAR BELT

BRETHREN

You have seen how daring & insulting on you as well as us The French Indians have been in cruelly murdering several of our People since You have come to this Place and therefore for the many reasons now laid before you I make no doubt but your answer will clearly manifest your Duty to the King Your Father and your Love to your Brethren, and by this Belt I do assure you that our Intent is to live & die together.

A BELT OF FRIENDSHIP

PROPOSITIONS made by His Excell^{cy} The Honourable George Clinton Captain General & Governour in Chief in and over the Province of New York &c^a to the River Indians.

at Albany the 21st August 1746.

PRESENT

His Excellency

Cadwallader Colden

Philip Livingston

John Rutherford

Esq^{rs} of the Council

The Commissioners from the Government of the
Massachusetts Bay

The Commissioners for Indians Affairs

The Mayor & Corporation of Albany

And Several Gentⁿ Attending his Excellency & the
Commissioners upon this Occasion

His Excellency address'd himself to y^e Indians as
followeth

CHILDREN

I am glad to meet you at this time as do likewise Commissioners From the Massachusetts Bay, who are come hither to concurr with me upon the present occasion. and I take this opportunity, to renew the ancient Covenant Chain with you, in behalf of this, and all his Majesty's Governments in America, which you know has always been kept bright, & clean, without any the least stain, or rust, and which by this Belt I strengthen

BELT

CHILDREN

My meeting you here, besides renewing the covenant chain, is with Intention, that you shou'd Join your Force, with ours, by taking up the Hatchet against our & your common Enemy's the French, & their Indians, who have in a very unmanly manner, by Sculking party's, murder'd in Cold Blood, many of your Brethren, in this & the Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

This behaviour lays us under a necessity of making Reprisals on them in the like manner, in w^{ch} I make no doubt of Your Assistance and we are resolved to take a thorough revenge of our, and your, perpetual Enemies, by reducing the Country of Canada, that it may never hereafter be in the power of these perfidious deceitfull, and Cruel People, to do you, or us, any injury for the future. For which purpose, all the Neighbouring Colonies, together with many Ships of War, & Soldiers from Great Britain, are resolved to unite their Force & to Attack Canada in all parts, both by Sea & Land, & I make no doubt you will on this Occasion shew yourselves dutyfull Children, in joining heartily with us & the Six Nations in this glorious Enterprize, by which you will not only gain honour & Renown, but also Safety, & prosperity, to yourselves Your Wives and Children for ever afterwards and for w^{ch} ends I will Furnish Your Fighting Men with Arms, Ammunition, cloathing, Provisions & everything necessary for the War.

BELT

Answer of the Six Nations to His
Excellency the Honourable George
Clinton Captain General and
Governour in Chief in and over
the Province of New York &c &c^a
and to the Commissioners of the
Massachusetts Bay at Albany the
23 Aug^t 1746

PRESENT

His Excellency The Hon^{ble} George Clinton &c
Cadwallader Colden
Philip Livingston
John Rutherford

Esq^{rs} of his Majesty's Council
for the province of New York

Jacob Wendell
Sam^l Wills

Esq^{rs} Commissioners for the
Province of the Massachusetts
Bay

The Commissioners of Indian Affairs
The Corporation
The Officers of the Independent Company's
The Officers of the New Levy's &
Several other Gentlemen

BROTHER CORLAER & BRETHREN
of the Massachusetts Bay

We the Six Nations are now assembled together as
one, Man, & we take in the Messissagas for the seventh
Nation, & what is now to be Spoken by one Mouth are
the Joint & sincere thoughts of every heart

We are pleas'd that you follow the Steps of our fore-
fathers in wiping of the Sorrowfull Tears from our Eyes,
by which the Stoppage of our throats is opened & the
bloody bed wash'd Cleane.

gave THREE STRINGS WAMPUM.

BRETHREN

The first time we met together, we only Saluted each other by shaking of Hands, we afterwards made a Covenant Chain of Silver, which we mutually have held fast, to this day, shou'd it now Slip from either of our hands, it would prove destructive to both sides since our Enemies have drawn the Sword.

GAVE A BELT

BROTHER CORLAER

Last Year you gave us the Hatchet to be made use of, against your Enemies, the French which we accepted & promised to make use of, if they should commit any farther Hostilities upon the English; which they have now done, by destroying Saraghtoga & shedding a great deal of Blood, hitherto we have made no use of the Hatchet, but as you now call upon us, we are ready and do declare from the bottom of our hearts that we will from this day make use of it against the French and their Children (meaning their Indians)

N. B. The question was Asked them by His Excellency whether (by the words their Children they meant all the Indians in Alliance with the French to which they answered yes)

At the end of the foregoing Paragraph they threw down a war Belt of Wampum on the Ground it being the Indian custom to deliver War Belts or make declarations of War in that manner This they did with remarkable Indignation intending thereby to Express their resentment agst the French, & their Allies, & their Zeal for the English.

A BELT

BROTHER CORLAER

According to your Exhortation in your Speech to us we are firmly united together & from this time to Act as having one Heart. The Messessagas are in the same

manner Joined and united with us, likewise the Southern Nations bordering upon us, & we hope that you & the other Governours on the Continent will be in the same manner joined and united together.

gave a belt

They repeated over his Excellencys Speech in relation to the Conquest of Cape Breton, and hoped that our Fleet & Army may be also Victorious in the present Expedition against Canada, adding, that the French were a mischievous People,

gave a Belt

As to your Suspicions of our admitting French Priests among us they are become groundless, since we have now declared War against them, The admitting of Priests would only tend to lull us asleep, on the Contrary, shou'd any now dare to come, we know no use for him or them but to Roast them & the thoughts of the Treatment we formerly receiv'd from the French thro' the means of their Priests, & which you have now reasonably brought to our remembrance makes our Blood to Boile.

BROTHER CORLAER

This is the Second time you have put the Hatchet into our Hands, which we hereby accept and are ready to go upon Service, You may see that we have but a Handfull of Fighting Men here at present, however some of them from each Nation, shall be left behind us, to follow your Orders: When we arrive at our Respective Castles, we shall send down a greater number of our Warriors, and of those of the Nations in Alliance with us, as soon as possible.

This we assure you of from the truth & Sincerity of our Hearts & we receive & shall preserve this large Belt (holding it up at the sametime) which you have now given us, as a War Hatchett.

BRETHREN

This is the Belt (at the same time giving one of Union) with which we are to go hand in hand to the Gates of our Enemies and by it we declare our intention to Conquer or to Dye together in the Common Cause.

There is a nation called the Messessagas whose delagates are here present they consist of Five Castles containing Eight hundred Men, who are all determined and do agree to Join us in this Common Cause against our Enemies the French & their Indians & we hope you & the Commissioners from Boston, will use them in such a manner that they will go home contented and Satisfied.

Gave a Belt of Friendship

Answer of the River Indians to
His Ex^{cy} The Honble Geo: Clinton
Cap^t Gen. & Governour in Chief
in and Over the Province of New
York &c and to the Commission-
ers of the Massachusets Bay at
Albany y^e 26 August 1746.

PRESENT

Cadwallader Colden

Philip Livingston

John Rutherford

Esq^{rs} of the Council

The Commissioners for the Province of the Massa-
chusets Bay

The Commissioners of Indian Affairs

The Corporation

The Officers of the Independent Companys

The Officers of the New raised Levys & Several other
Gentlemen.

FATHER

We are glad to see you, & we come to renew the Cove-
nant Chain, and make it fast, and bright as ever and
free from Rust, and as a Token thereof we give this belt.

Gave a Belt.

FATHER

You have told us what mischief of the French have
done, and what murders they have committed upon the
Christians therefore we declare From our hearts & not
From our Lips, that as you have ordered us to Shed the
Enemys Blood in return for what they have done, we are
resolved to do it & will live and dye with you in the

Comon Cause. When you Christians are at War, you make peace with one another, but it is not so with us, therefore we depend upon you to take care of us, in Confidence of which, we now take up the Hatchet, & will make use of it, against the French & their Indians.

Gave a Belt with a Hatchet.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden.

ALBANY Aug 20th 1746

My Dear

I wrote to you this day by a sloop going down but having an opportunity of writing to M^r Hardenbergh I inclose this that you may know that I continue in perfect health & as easy as I can be from my family & you. & under all the uncertainties we still remain of knowing nothing of the Fleet or who is to be General. However I must think that the Fleet is ariv'd by this time otherwise if any stop had been put to the Fleet we must have had express ships to give us an Account of it The Governour has been ill but is recover'd. M^{rs} Rutherford keeps brave & well but has not recover'd her strength They are waiting for this & I must break off with my affectionate remembrance of our children Only pray take care of your self that you may have a joyfull meeting with

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at
Coldenham.

6th R - d Aug 30

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

Aug. 20th past 10 at night

My Dear

I have yours of the 17th wherein you accuse me of negligence to your commands. If another fault of the

same kind will excuse it by forgetfullness yesterday I made the Gov^r loose his Dinner to day.

Curtise went away soon after the arival of the man of War from England when our heads were full of News The Express is arriv'd this night from Boston & I must go early tomorrow morning to Greenwich after having been in Council today both forenoon & afternoon till night. And to be in Council again tomorrow forenoon I therefor write this least I should not be able to do it tomorrow when the man who brought the letter left word he would call for an answer. All I can tell you at present is that I am in perfect health & if I see the man to morrow I will endeavour to send what I should have sent before & if I have time may write what news we have from Boston at present I know none I have got the Commiss^{ns} Alex^r desir'd.

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

Aug 22 This was design'd by Terwilligen but I did not see him I send up the Check & the Sadle lace I am so hurried that I must refer you to Alex^r for any News I can write I am this instant going into Council & from thence to Greenwich where I am to be all night.

[Indorsed]

To
Mrs COLDEN at
Coldenham.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden.

ALBANY Aug 20th 1746

My Dear

I cannot recollect how often I have wrote to you being hurried with people coming often to me this day But I must not let this sloop go without assuring you that I have had my health perfectly well ever since I came to this place & continue so The Governour has been indisposed but is now recover'd tho it is not thought proper for him to go abroad in this rainy weather & for that

reason I spoke to the Indians in his name yesterday It seem'd well receiv'd But we have not their answer at this time No news of the Fleet or of a General but every moment expected Remember me affectionately to all the Children Take care of your self as I do of my self that

we may have a joyfull meeting
CADWALLADER COLDEN.

Dumbar is very well
& very carefull.

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at

Coldengham.

To be left at M^r ALEXANDER COLDEN'S

at Newburgh

or with RICHARD NICHOLLS Esq

New York.

2 R - d Sept^r 3^d

COMMISSION ISSUED TO CADWALLADER COLDEN, JR. AS
COMMISSARY OF MUSTERS, AUGUST 24, 1746

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

THE HONOURABLE GEORGE CLINTON ESQ^r

Captain Generall and Governor in Chief of the
province of New York, and the Territories
thereon Depending in America, and Vice
Admirall of the Same and Vice Admirall of the
Red Squadron of his Majesties Fleet.

TO CADWALLADER COLDEN JUN^r ESQ^r

REPOSING Especiall Trust and Confidence as well in
the Care, Diligence and Circumspection as in the Loyalty
fidelity, and Readiness of you, to do his Majesty Good
and Faithfull Service, HAVE Nominated, Constituted
and Appointed and I DO by Virtue of the powers and
Authorities to me Given by his Majesty Under the Broad
Seal of Great Brittain hereby Nominate, Constitute and
Appoint you the Said Cadwallader Colden Jun^r to be

Commissary of the Musters of all the Forces Levied by his Majesties Orders on an Expedition Intended against the French in Canada which now are or at any time hereafter Shall be in the Said province and Territories, And Judge Advocate for the Said Forces to Execute the Said offices According to the Rules and discipline of the Army, YOU are therefore to Observe and Obey Such Rules and Orders as you Shall from time to time Receive from me or the Generall of the Said Forces or from the Commissary Generall of the Musters of his Majesties Armies in pursuance of the trust Reposed in you, and for so doing this shall be your Commissions

GIVEN Under my hand and seal at Arms in New York the twenty fourth day of August in the Twentieth year of His Majesties Reign, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and forty Six

JN^o AYSCOUGH Secretary.

G. CLINTON.

Opinion of the Council at Albany.

[In Colden's handwriting]

To His Excellency &c.

In obedience to your Excellency's commands to us to give our opinions of what may be proper to be don in consequence of the Intelligence & advise your Excell^y has receiv'd from Gov^r Shirley & Admiral Warren by their letters of the — & 19th instant

We are humbly of opinion that it is absolutely necessary to attempt the Reduction of the French Fort at Crown Point by the joint Forces of all the Colonies now rais'd for the Expedition against Canada & that this be done without delay & with all the dispatch that the present circumstances of Affairs will admit of for the following reasons

As your Excellency has by an unwearied application & influence gain'd the six Nations to join with us in the

most solemn & hearty manner in the War against the French of Canada & their Indian allies & to promise not only to join their whole force to ours but the force of all the Indian Nations over whom they have any Influence & who are very numerous We are of opinion that the best use is to be made of so happy an event of your Negociation with the six Nations by entering them immediatly upon Action against the French & their Indians as your Excellency in order to engage the six Nations in the War was obliged to communicat to them the Design of attacking Canada by Sea and Land if every part of that Expedition be now laid aside The six Nations will apprehend that they have been deceiv'd & in consequence of such opinion the English Colonies may loose entirely the Friendship & Esteem not only of the six Nations but of all the Indian Nations in North America & the French thereby gain so great an influence over them as may enable them to put their grand Design in Execution of setting all the Indian Nations in North America upon us & harassing the Frontiers of the English colonies on all sides from Annapolis royal to Georgia By which means the English Colonies would be so far from being in a Condition as they now are of making any attempt upon Canada that their whole force must be employ'd & would not be sufficient to defend their Settlements from the incursions of the Indians on all sides.

By the best information we can obtain in this toun we do not think there can be above 12000 men in Canada including their Indians & regular troops & therefor we are of opinion the Forces now Levied in the several Colonies will be sufficient to reduce the French Fort at Crown Point if care be taken at the same time to harass their Settlements every where by incursions of the Indians which we think it will not be difficult for your Excellency to effect in the present disposition of the Indians and the City of Quebec at the same time be kept in Continual apprehensions by the appearance of as great a number of Shipping in the River of St. Lawrence

as can be spared from Louisbourg while the forces may be supposed to be before Crown point. We are inform'd that a single forty gun ship will be sufficient to plunder & destroy all the French settlements below Quebec

We are likewise of Opinion That whether the attempt on Crown point be made or not all the Forces now levied must be kept on foot paid cloathed & supported with provisions & placed on the frontiers towards Canada so that the reduction of Crown point can occasion a very small additional expence to what is now become absolutely necessary without making any such attempt. We even doubt whether it will occasion a greater expence than will become necessary otherwise for the defence of the several Colonies by building of Forts &c That if Crown point be reduced this Fall as we hope it may then next Spring We think Montreal may with much more ease be attempted & carried by land forces to be sent against it by two different roads viz by Chambly & Oswego down Cadarackni & St. Lawrence river & that in the Winter Season small Vessels may be built for transporting the troops & artillery &c to Chambly & that these vessels being made large enough to carry small cannon will cover the men while they are landing near Chambly

As the season of the year is allready so far advanced that there is no time left to consult the several Governments we humbly advise your Excellency to encamp the Forces now at this place & to order them to March with all the Expedition may be towards the carrying place that under their cover the roads may be repair'd & new roads where necessary made & Blockhouses or Forts be built where ever it shall be thought necessary or convenient for securing the Transportation of all necessities for the Army & preserving the communication between the Army & this place & to prevent the incursions of the Ennemy That a party of Indians with a sufficient number of Christians be sent to harass the Settlements of Canada at as many different & distant places

as possible to keep the inhabitants every where in allarm & to prevent their sending succours to Crown point.

We very gratefully thank your Excellency for your communicating to us your Design of leaving the Nomination to Gov^r Shirley & Admiral Warren of the Person to command the Army in chief on the Expedition against Crown point as it shows your Excellency's Disposition to remove every difficulty which you apprehend may obstruct this Enterprise & that you will consent to any Form of a Commission or Commissions which they shall think necessary or proper for that purpose

As the officers & soldiers now rais'd are supposed to be in the Kings pay it becomes highly necessary that Gov^r Shirley & admiral Warren think of some method by which they may receive their pay from time to time without delay and that the rate of their pay according to the several currencies of money in which they shall be paid be determined otherwise we apprehend that mutinies & other disorders may arise in the Army

The immediat Reduction of the French Fort at Crown point appears to us to be of such consequence to the safety of all his Majesties Colonies in North America that we can make no doubt if the several Governments readily agreeing to bear their respective shares of the necessary expence & for that purpose we have in conjunction with the Commiss^{rs} from the Massachusetts Bay made an Estimate of the extraordinary charge which we think may arise & of what we & they imagine may be a reasonable Quota for each.

We are very sensible how little it would have become us to have advised by our selves on matters of so great consequence had it been possible to have got the advice & consent of the other Gentlemen of the Council without Hazarding the loss of the whole Interprise by the delay which would become necessary for that purpose & we hope that the present Exigency of affairs will not only excuse us with your Excellency but with all persons that have any right to Judge in this affair

Albany August 25th 1746.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

My Dear

I have yours of the 19th & since that one from Alex^r wherein he tells me that he is resolv'd to stay at home. I wrote to him the beginning of this week wherein I inform'd him that we had succeeded to our wish in our Treaty with the Indians If the Fleet had ariv'd in time I doubt not every thing had succeeded in like manner. The uncertainties we are under will certainly keep us longer in this place than was imagined An express was sent to Boston last night at the return of which we shall take our final resolutions Capⁿ Rutherfords youngest Daughter except the last has the small Pox & tho pretty full no ill circumstances. I keep my health still perfectly well & my spirits without the least hip Remember me to all our children Tell Jenny & Alice & John that they please me much by their letters but I have such variety of things to think on & so seldom alone that they must excuse my writing as I am forced to deny my self the pleasure I would have in doing it. I have a letter likewise from Betty & no time to answer it but I had wrote to her before I receiv'd She complains of not hearing from any of us. Capⁿ Rutherford & his Lady make their Complements to you

I am

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

Albany Aug 28th 1746

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at Coldenham

To be left with M^r ALEXANDER COLDEN

at Newburgh or

with RICHARD NICHOLLS Esq at
New York

8th R - d August 29

From Samuel Welles

Boston 12th Sept^r 1746.

Sir,

Your concern for the public, & for that reason, zeal for the Expedition to Crown point & great capacity to promote it, brings you the trouble of this, There is such a zeal in the Court here, they seem'd to be so ready for it in Connecticut as I came along home, that I cannot but hope, if the Southern Governments exert themselves in any tolerable manner, that there is a great prospect of success in it.

I look up on it, to be of as great consequence as almost anything, that there be a great number of Indians with the forces, & prudently treated, this will strike a vast damp into the french & their Indians too, and greatly tend to Establish them firmly in our Interest, if there should be any action, as if we go on there doubtless will, I hope there will be of every sort at least fifteen hundred Indians & of as many nations as possible, they will mightily secure the main body of the Army both on their march & when they come to the siege, & being engaged & successful in this expedition, will next Spring bring every Indian within five or six hundred miles Westward & Southward of Albany to go against Canada that can well carry a gun & it is very probable, if we succeed, that our men will go to Montroyal & Quebec before they return to Boston, & I cannot think but that a fleet to keep out Succours from France, will give an addition the Plantations can easily make, to this army next spring, an opportunity with the assistance of these Indians to drive Canada where they please; as to this expedition against Crown point, we pretty much apprehend it may require winter work & we are providing for it, we make many of our tents large & to be open on one side like the bank[?] of an house where against the open upright side a fire may be made to keep all warm & dry & on some other side of the fire as the wind may be, another Tent may be fixt.

I have a great satisfaction that you have so large a part in directing on this Enterprize, In which you have the greater advantage to be Serviceable from the large those of favour & confidence you have from Excellency Gov^r Clinton, who is & must be at the head of it I was at some loss whether I should thrust myself forward, & intermeddle in this manner, but when the whole is in danger, & general destruction threatened, which is the case if Crown Point & Canada remain to the french, I think every member ought to do their utmost & in every manner lend a hand to Save their Country, I must pray you to give my very sincere regards to Capt. Rutherford & Lady as well as well as accept them your self from

Your very Hum^{ble} Serv^t

SAMUEL WELLES.

Hon.^{ble} CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

ALBANY Sept^r 19th 1746

My Dear

I have delay'd writing for some time in hopes our uncertainties would at last be at an end An express we sent to Boston was detain'd there so long that it was 3 weeks before we receiv'd an answer. The General is now every day expected One Waldo from Boston & our Forces here are all making ready to March So that I hope we may be able to leave this place sometime next week But as our express says the day before he Left Boston a Vessel from Cape Breton came in which in her passage saw 30 ships whether French or English she cannot tell an other express may alter all our measures Capⁿ Roberts & Marshall are apointed Lieutenant Collo-nels & Capt. Clark & Rutherford Majors of the New York Forces You may assure your self nothing will prevent my returning to you as soon as possible that I

may again return to the pleasures of my own Family
Remember me affectionately to all our children

I am in perfect health

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

Mrs COLDEN at
Coldengham.

9th R - d Sep^{tr} 25th

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

ALBANY Sept^r 23 1746

My Dear

The last I have from any of my family is John's of the 10th instant & I have I believe receiv'd all that he mentions before that except one which you wrote since you sent the bundle. I wrote by Egberts since any John has mentioned to be receiv'd & last friday night by an express battoe going to New York This goes by M^r Hardenbergh by whom I receiv'd Johns. In my last I wrote what news we have here & nothing new has occurr'd The General is not ariv'd One half of The New York Forces with Col Roberts's Battalion have receiv'd orders to be in readiness to march what the other Battalion is to do I know not. The Gov^r is making ready to return which gives me a great deal of pleasure by the hopes of being soon with you He I am satisfied cannot leave this place this week & therefor I would be glad to have leave to go before him but I must not swallow the Cow & stick on the tail. The Company rais'd in our County is to have officers to their own liking. I continue in perfect good health but not [torn]

From John Bartram

October y^e 6th 1746

Dear esteemed friend

I received thy kind letter of may y^e 9th & am much obliged to thee for translating part of Gronovius letter It is not for want of respect to thee that I did not answer it sooner, but for want of entertaining subjects to work upon: I may still add another reason as great or greater: y^e genererall distress of our provinces yours with y^e invasions of y^e barbarous Indians and ours with four different kinds of mortal distempers viz y^e small pox which now begins to be very malignant y^e bloody flux grievous lingring feavours commonly Called y^e dumb ague & y^e sore throat all these is generally thorow y^e countrey very few families escapes some or other of them & abundans dies both men women & children as it is y^e dryest Summer that ever was known since y^e English settled here so it is y^e Sickliest so that we are daly prest by naturall affection or y^e ingagements of humanity to condole our near relations & friends afflictions instead of amuseing or diverting our selves with curious speculations—A few days past arivd Captain Mesnard from London who brought me severall pacquets of letters from several of my Corespondents as our friend Collinson, Sir Hans sloan, M. Catesby & A Parcel of books & letters from our worthy friends Gronovius in one of which he mentions Docter Colden with great respect & desired me to transcribe part of it & send it to him which runs thus. “you must know that with y^e assistance of Linneus & other friends we discovered several new genera quite different from these which are known & so there is made one *Bartramia* & another *Coldenia*. I cant Say positively in what book thay with several new characters are printed, but I am sure that thay will be found in *Fauna suevica* or *deta Suevica* which books where in april send from Stockholm by sea so that thay are expected here every day: when I shall send to you that booke. if there

are send duplicates of it. However that you should know what plant it is I send to you y^e Characters; Bartramia & its char then COLDENIA. Teucree facie Bisnagarica tetracoccus rostra pitis scaten foliis profunde venosis plukn alm p. 363. tab. 64. fig. 6.

CAL. perianthium tetraphyllum. foliolis Canceolatis erectis

COR. monopetala infundibuli formis longitudine calycis. Limbo patalo obtuso æquali quadrifido

STAM Filamenta quatuor. tubo corolla inserta Anthera subrotundo Pist germina quatuor ovata Styli totidem capillares Longitudine stamen stigmata simplicia persistentia.

PERIC nullum Fructus ovatus scabe compressus rostris quatuor

SEM quatuor acuminata hinc convega inde angulata

Facies Neurada sed diversissima planta

"Pray when you write to that Learned Gentleman send to him A Copy of this Character & acquaint him that I with great pleasure perceived by your Letter that my paket is come to his hands but that I am extreemly sorry that his things for me where taken by the privateers; this my dear friend I have transcribed out of his letter to me, for thy sattisfaction but as I don't understand Lattin any thing like well I may have mist several letters for want of understanding y^e sence of many that was blotted but I hope thy mature Judgment may assist that defect

Now I have one favour to request of thee which is to send me A few growing trees of y^e arbor vita after this manner make A little box about A foot square lay about two inches thick of earth at y^e bottom then dig up some young trees about 10 inches high of y^e arbor vita if thay have A sod in which y^e fibrous roots are fixed it would be better plant these on y^e mould as close as possible then fill y^e box half full of mould & press it hard about y^e roots then put more earth in y^e box about y^e stems pressing it prety close then fill y^e box with mould to y^e top letting y^e tops of y^e branches be just above y^e mould

then nail y^e lid fast on this way I believe will preserve them alive A month or two in this cool season when y^e vigetive Juices is at rest & y^e box being full it may be tumbled about like other goods without much damage, tho it will be better to write upon y^e lid KEEP THIS SIDE UPPERMOST: if thee would be so kind as to direct it to D^r John Bard in new york for me & send it thither for me I believe he will send it to Philadelphia y^e first opportunity that seed thee sent me did not come up tho it seemed very good indeed y^e dry Sommer might be a great hindrance If I can do thee any service in our way pray use y^e freedom to accept it which will be cherefully performed according to the best of y^e understanding of thy well wisher

JOHN BARTRAM

[Indorsed]

For

Doctor CADWALADER COLDEN

These

Free B. FRANKLIN

From John Rutherford

ALBANY 10th Oct 1746

D^r Sir

I received your Note for the Cagg of Rum which was put on board of Capt Tenbrook & directed as you desired. There has nothing of any Consequence happened here since you left us, no news of any Forces comeing this way from New England, I'm afraid they'l be so much alarmed with these Accounts of The French Fleet that they'l think of nothing but to defend themselves. I hope this will find you at New York for the sake of the publick & for my own Sake, as I'm perswaded The Kings Commissions will arrive this Fall, if ever: Secure these two we talked of at parting & send them up by One of your Sons or some hand you can intirely trust. I don't care to be too particular as there's no depending upon letters goeing unopened, if at all. We are makeing every thing

ready to March, whenever the Batoe Coll^l Roberts Sent down to His Excellency returns. I shall expect every day heaps of news from you & am with the greatest regard

Most Sincerely yours & c. & c.

JOHN RUTHERFURD

P. S.

When we March from Albany, I leave Bills & full powers with Mrs. Rutherford to transact any business of mine

[Indorsed]

To

The Honourable

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

To be left at Mr. ALEXANDER COLDEN's house at Newburgh or at the Post house at New York

From Benjamin Franklin

PHILAD^a Oct. 16, 1746

Sir

I have received your Favour of the 13th Instant, and am glad to hear you are return'd well from Albany, which I understand has been a very sickly Place this Fall. I did not imagine you would have been detain'd there so long, or I should have done my Self the Pleasure of writing to you by my Son. Our Interpreter M^r Weiser is return'd. He tells me that as soon as he came to Albany he went to the Fort and waited on the Secretary, that his being there might be made known to the Governor, in Case he should have any Commands for him; and that 2 Days after being told by Major Rutherford that the Governor wonder'd he had not Seen him, he immediately waited on his Excellency.

I am sorry I have so little to tell you relating to your Treatise, that may afford you any Satisfaction. Seven or eight of our Gentlemen, have, within my Knowledge, read more or less of it, viz. M^r Hopkinson our Judge of the Admiralty; M^r Taylor, Collector of the Kings Customs; M^r Francis our Attorney General, (who is a pretty

close attentive Thinker) M^r Coleman & M^r Graydon, & M^r Tober, Merchants and ingenious Men; with some others. And all I can learn of their Sentiments concerning it is, that they say they cannot understand it, it is above their Comprehension. M^r Logan, from whom I expected most, when I desired his Opinion, said just the same; only added, that The Doctrine of Gravity's being the Effect of Elasticity was originally Bernouilli's, but he believ'd you had not Seen Bernoulli, M^r Norris, his Son in law, lately one of our Commissioners at the Treaty of Albany, was present. He had been reading of it too, and Said he was not able to make anything of it. Thus, tho' you should get no Praise among us, you are like to escape Censure, since our People do not seem to Suppose that you write unintelligibly, but charge all to the Abstruseness of the Subject, and their own Want of Capacity

For my own Part I have read no more than I send you enclos'd. What little Leisure I have is so broken & interrupted, and it requiring methinks a steady continued Consideration for some Time to become a Master of your Doctrine in all its Parts, I am almost ready to join with the rest, and give it up as beyond my reach. Yet I imagine, that if I had an Opportunity of reading it with you, and proposing to you my Difficulties for Explanation as they rise, I might possibly soon Succeed. The Notes I have made were only for my own Consideration; they are Queries which I put down that I might remember to look out for Answers to them, which I suppos'd I might find as I read further. From the whole I intended to draw the Observations I should communicate to you, after due Consideration, and rejecting what was not to the purpose. But since I am not like to compleat the Reading Soon, being embarras'd in much Business, and obliged to take a Journey to Boston in a Week or two, I send them as they are. I have shown them to no one. If you would have me continue them, you will please after Perusal to return them. They will at least Show you that I have been endeavouring to read

and understand your Piece; and perhaps either your Approbation or Opposition of something I have Said, may Spirit me up to return to it with fresh Vigour.

Some of our Gentlemen to render themselves more capable of comprehending your Doctrine, have been mustering up and reading whatever else they could find on Subjects, anyway akin to yours. Among other Pieces, they got a Book not long since publish'd, said to be wrote by an ingenious Man in Scotland, one Baxter, on the human Soul: This was handed about an extoll'd as the plainest and clearest Thing that ever was wrote on Such a dark Subject. At length it came to my Hands, and I was desired to read it. The Author lays down the *Vis Inertiæ* of Matter as a Foundation on which all Philosophy & even Religion are to be built. In Company one Night, I express'd my Dissatisfaction with his Demonstrations, to the Surprise of Some who desired me to give my Reasons in Writing, that they might examine them at better Leisure. I did so the next Morning. And as I imagine they may give you former Amusement, I will send you the Book and my Remarks, if I can get them home time enough for the Post.

M^r Bertram acquaints you with the contents of a Letter he has just received from Gronovius. I congratulate you on the Immortality conferr'd on you by the learned Naturalists of Europe. No Species or Genus of Plants was ever lost, or ever will be while the World Continues; and therefore your Name, now annexed to one of them, will last forever

I see my *Acc^t* of the Fireplaces translated into Dutch is printed at Leiden. M^r Bertram has two of them come over.

D^r Mitchel was taken in his Passage home, and plundered of all his learned Observations. He got to London from France some time in May last, bravely recover'd in his Health

It will not be long after my Return from Boston before you will see the first Number of the Miscellany. I have new Materials by me for 5 or 6. The want of a

good Engraver is a great Difficulty with me. The Mention of Engraving puts me in mind, that Mr Evans told me you would permit me to take off some Copies from a Plate you have of the N American Coast. I shall be obliged to you for that favour

When Capt. Honeyman was here, I gave him at his Request, a Paper containing some Acc^t of Experiments relating to wooden Cannon. Enclos'd is a Copy of it, which please to return with your Sentiments, when you have read it. I sent a Copy (without a Name) to Gov. Shirley.

Having Sufficiently tired your Patience, I will not add to the Trespass by an Apology, but conclude

Your most humble Serv^t

B. FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALADER COLDEN Esq^r

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

NEW YORK Nov^r 3^d 1746

My Dear

I shall soon long to hear of your safe arival at home & meeting your Children with pleasure Tell John that I am well pleas'd with his letter There was one from Jenny to you which I took the pleasure of reading. We have nothing new here besides what is in the prints. It is certain the French fleet is gon & we are freed from all fears of them & the accounts of the miserable condition they were in as related in the prints is true & worse than there related I saw a letter from the Capⁿ of The flag of truce that left them after they had sail'd from Cheboucta harbour. We hear nothing of our fleet & we still remain under the same uncertainties we did as to all publick affairs The Representation the Assembly is to make has not as yet appear'd after we shall have seen it we shall be able to Judge better of the

Affairs in this Province. I continue in very good health & as easy as when you saw me here & indeed as easy as I can be in the absence from my own family & the company where I place my delight Remember me affectionately to all our Children I wish much to be with you & shall as soon as I can in the mean time I shall endeavour to keep myself as easy as any one can in a place where he would not choose to be if he could obtain all his wish. I am

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

Send me the Direction for my letters to my Brother I left the Company I was with when you went away between four & five in the afternoon & by that means came off well The Gov^r kept his promise in not stopping or desiring me to stay Nov^r 4th I have just now tuesday morning receiv'd John's by James M^c Neal & am sorry that he can tell me nothing of you

[Indorsed]

To

Mrs COLDEN
at Coldenham

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden

NEW YORK Nov^r 7th 1746

My Dear

I have had my thoughts engaged for these two or three days on some matters of consequence & now at last I am call'd upon unexpectedly for my letters The assembly have made a representation to the Governor which you will see in Print I hope the Generality of People will be better pleas'd with his answer than with their Representation. I am in as good health & Spirit as ever & I am not uneasy at any thing but in being from you & my Family Remember me affectionately to all of them. I have no time to write in answer to Cad's he should learn more patience otherwise he never can be

easy in this world He may trust to my assisting of him
in his necessities if he behave as he ought I am

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

Mrs. COLDEN At
Coldenham

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

NEW YORK Nov^r 9th 1746

My Dear

I wrote the day before yesterday by Ja M^c Neal Faulkener being so kind as to call this morning I repeat what I told you before that I am (I think) in better health & spirits than for many years before But you will perhaps hear somethings as to publick affairs A Base Lye printed of me in the Votes But be no way concern'd All this will turn out to my advantage & I hope at last to the Benefite of my Family My Ennemies will do more for me than my friends could without them & my Ennemies ought to make me amends for I have given no Provocation to any man. The only thing that troubles me is that I am affray'd I must stay in this place till the time the Ships go for England The Gov^r has not spoke to me on this head but I suspect it must be Pray take care of your self as I shall do of my self that we may meet with pleasure My tender love to all our Children

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at
Coldenham.

*Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden*NEW YORK NOV^r 11th 1746

My Dear

Yours of the 3^d of this month gave me the greatest pleasure by the accounts I receiv'd in it. I have receiv'd the bedding & I suppose M^{rs} Nicholls has taken care of the Basket Your pillow case & a box is come from Westchester Help Cadwallader with his Winter Provision You have Cows & steers sufficient for that purpose I have no time to write to him as the Weather is grown cold what Cattle are to be kill'd must be fed at night. If what work I directed be don let the servants clear the swamp between the midle field & the east field if it be dry enough for that purpose beginning at the lower or north end If that be wet let them clear the east field for sowing next summer I mean that field on the east meadow & to the Northward of the field reapt this year Since I wrote so far M^{rs} Nicholls tells me that the Basket is not on board Courts It may come time enough I believe next trip for I know not as yet when I shall return Perhaps you may meet with somethings in the Prints which may give you uneasiness but I assure they give me none & what ever trouble I at present meet with I hope my family will have the Benefite of it & I think I would do them an injury if I neglected what is offer'd me. You must expect no news from me Only this by the last papers from England We hope for a Peace with Spain & that the War with France will be continued I am in perfect health & as cheerfull as ever Remember me tenderly to my dear children My Service to M^r Markham & other friends I am

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

Mrs COLDEN at
Coldengham.

*Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden*NEW YORK NOV^r 18th 1746

My Dear

I have yours of the 10th & 11th of this month but have not receiv'd your preceeding letter which you was apprehensive would give me so much uneasiness So that I had not that check to my cheerfullness which you apprehended I believe you'l think I have had some other checks to it from what no doubt you must hear It is impossible to act in the Station I am in without meeting with ill natur'd returns for actions which perhaps are most deserving. I now can assure you that the malice shown me at this time is so far from being hurtfull that thereby they give an opportunity of laying open the good services don which otherwise might have been thought vain & indecent & in that respect will be of use & they no way lessen any cheerfullness which you observ'd. I cannot at this time write to Cadwallader my breast is too full when I think of him & my head too much imploy'd in other things. In my last I proposed something for him with which or with what you propose I shall be pleas'd. I must be continually imploy'd till the ships go for England We hear that Admiral Waren has taken a sudden resolution of going from Boston to England & that he was to sail in the Chester man of War Sunday last The Post from Boston is not arriv'd. I am in perfect good health Remember me affectionately to our dear children I sent letters from Betty by Courts. They were all well last week Peter call'd on me as he went home last Saturday. We have some remarkable pieces of News since I wrote so far which I write to Alexander & you may open the letter directed to him if it come first to your hands. I intend to send the News papers & the Treaty with the Indians published here My poor old Landlord dy'd yesterday & is to be buried on thursday.

Nov^r 21st I continue in perfect health The Assembly

adjourned for 8 days which has lenthened business unexpectedly I shall make all the haste I can to be with you & I told the Gov^r so yesterday but I can say no time as yet Dispatches are every day expected from England & I wish they may come before I leave this place I am

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN
at Coldenham.

Cadwallader Colden to Dr. Samuel Johnson

[Copy]

NEW YORK NOV^r 19th 1746

D S^r

You oblige me much with the freedom with which you are pleas'd to correspond with me. The mathematical part of my essay you tell me is most out of your reach as not having a sufficient foundation for It I am the least concern'd about that part It is only wrote for those that are versant in that kind of learning & in astronomy for it would have made a large volum to have explain'd what I suppose to be known as allready sufficiently don by others. Notwithstanding that most of my correspondents write to me of the difficulties they are under to conceive what I would be at yet this must either be in the uncommonness & newness of the Ideas or in my inability to explain my notions properly or in both for after reflecting again & again on the subject & considering every objection that has been made I remain as fully perswaded of the truth of it as of day light after the sun is up & that it is more than an Hypothesis I am perswaded that what ever reception this piece may have in my life time the Doctrine I deliver will be receiv'd when I shall be dead & rotten & perhaps forgot The whole difficulty is in this whether there can be different species of Matter whether we can conceive matter with-

out some property essential to it whether we can conceive any property in matter without action or is not every property the effect of some Action whether contradictory properties or actions or such which are negative to each other can subsist in the same species

I find all puzzled to conceive that resistance is really an action in the resisting matter & yet it must certainly be so or it can have no force for I can have no conception of force without action or of what some call a dead Force that is a Force that can have no effect for if it produce any effect it must do something or it must have acted The Difficulty of our conceiving the action of resisting matter arises from this that our common Ideas of action include motion in them & for that reason imagine that some kind of motion must accompany every Action but as I observ'd in my Treatise all allow that thinking is a kind of Action yet nothing of motion is included in the conception we have of the Action of Thinking I am perswaded the more you think the more you will be perswaded that there are more than one kind of action in which motion cannot be conceiv'd as any part of the action.

I am sorry to find by yours that one of the Fellows of your College is apprehensive of some tendency in my System towards Atheism This is a misfortune which has happen'd to all new Discoveries in Philosophy So Copernicus So Galilio Des Cartes Leibnitz &c have all been branded. They must have very weak minds who think they can do service to Religion by aspersions of this kind on such like men Men who have giv'n any ground to be suspected of Atheism have at the same time given proof of their ignorance in natural Philosophy. And I do not remember of any one man that has made any considerable discovery in natural Philosophy that has given any real Ground to suspect him an Enemy to true Religion but the Contrary

I shall add something on this occasion in defence of my System that from it a certain proof may be given of the existence of Spirits or immaterial beings For as in

the Idea of all material beings Quantity or shape or Form is included & their actions are divisable into degrees or quantities of Action The Being from whence the Action of thinking proceeds can not be material because no kind of Quantity enters our Perception thereof neither can any kind of measure or Division be applied to it so much as in Imagination

All allow that when God created matter he gave it some essential Properties otherwise there can be no essential difference between matter & spirit & why may I not say in my way of speaking that God gave at the Creation to different kinds of matter different & distinct kinds of Action As to my own part I can discover no kind of ill consequence from the one more than the other In answer to your demand of my opinion of D^r Berkely's book de Motis I shall give it with the Freedom requisite to Philosophy I think that the D^r has made the greatest Collection in this & his other writings of indistinct & indegested conceptions from the writings of both the Ancients & moderns that I ever met with in any one mans performances that he has the art of puzzling & confounding his readers in an elegant stile not common to such kind of writers & that he is as great an abuser of the use of words as any one of those he blames most for that fault. I hope you'll pardon me for writing so freely of your friend & of so great a man I do it with the less concern in hopes thereby to provoke you to use the same freedom with me Complements without sincerity spoil all Philosophy. I am so often interrupted at this time with Business that I wish I could avoid that you must excuse the incoherence of this scraul & likewise that I say nothing on the subject of your Treatise I will do it when I can apply my thoughts to it in the manner you desire I must stay I am affray'd in this place 8 or 10 days on Business which deprives me of that pleasure which I had hoped to obtain in old age that is free thoughts & conversation with my friends in Philosophy.

To D^r S. JOHNSON
at Stratford.

From John Rutherford

D^r Sir

We are now quiet in Winter Quarters & nothing Stirring worth writeing but what you'l hear particularly from Coll^l Johnstoun & Capt. Firrell, All Indian Storys from the One & Our March &c. from the other. Mrs Rutherford returns you thanks for your last letter but cant write to you as She designed by this opportunity being a good deal out of order these two days by a severe cold as is likewise Doctor Colhoun who is really very bad. Shall we never hear more from England? I'm more & more Surprized every day & am afraid now these New York Ships will be gone befor the Letters arrive that were sent by The Fleet which will be a great baulk to me, as there will be no opportunity after that to answer any letters for some time, Pray write me your thoughts about Expedition affairs now. I reckon you'l be able to learn a good deal when Admiral Warren arrives. I was much surprized, after so great expectations raised about it, to See the Representation from the Assembly so very poor a performance, silly, trifleing & no sort of spirit in it. The Governours Speech I was perfectly pleased with which is saying all I can; only I wish this Representation may have such an answer as it deserves. I am Sir

Most sincerely yours &c.&c.

JOHN RUTHERFURD

ALBANY 19th Nov^r 1746

DRAFT OF MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON [IN THE HANDWRITING OF CADWALLADER COLDEN] TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NEW YORK NOVEMBER 24, 1746. Printed in part in "Journal of the General Assembly of New York" Volume II, pages 137-138

I find my self under a necessity from your Resolves of the 8th instant communicated to me by order of the house to say some things to you which otherwise I should not

have thought prudent to have don in so publick a manner The opinion that the good People of this Province & all the Colonies in North America shall intertain of my Conduct this summer at Albany while I was under a necessity of transacting matters of the greatest consequence to the well being of not only this Province but likewise of all the neighbouring colonies as it may affect not only my own reputation & the reputation of him who assisted me in the general conduct of affairs but likewise the good success of any Interprise that shall hereafter be undertaken either for the Preservation of the British colonies in North America from the Attack of open ennemies or the secret machinations of disaffected persons or for the Annoyance of the Ennemy or reducing of Canada I hope his Majesty & his ministers and all well wishers to their Country will excuse me if I speak out some-things which I desir'd to have kept silent & which otherwise ought not to have been made so publick as I am now forced to do.

I agreed with M^r Shirley & M^r Waren the only two persons in America who had power to concert a plan for the operations in the Expedition against Canada where-of the greatest part remain as yet to be executed & for that reason would be inconsistant with my Duty to make publick but this occasion obliges me to tell you that the Forces of this & the neighbouring Colonies whose rendezvous was at Albany were to march from thence

This being premised I shall now acquaint you with some of the reasons that induced me to grant the War-rant for Provisions for the Independant companies of regular troops of this Province & they were among others First I was very sensible of the many disadvantages Disorders & hazards new levied troops are exposed to who could not be well disciplin'd & where few if any of the officers or Soldiers had been used to command or experienced in the Arts or Discipline of War I conceiv'd it would greatly tend to remedy these disadvantages to join with them so many of the four indepenent companies as could be spared from Garrisons And as these

Independent companies are regular troops which the Croun without any charge to this Province has kept here for the security thereof about 50 years and as I found that about 200 of them could be spared from the Garisons I hoped that the joining of them to the new levied forces would tend to the speedy training of the new levies & prevent the disorders which too frequently happen among new levied forces

Next As the new levied companies of this Province amounted to 1600 men besides commission officers whom you have engaged to furnish with Provisions during the Expedition but so great a diminution of them having happened as that the remainder did not amount to above 1400 men officers included I hoped it would be agreeable to you to supply in part that defect in the manner I have don without putting the Province to the charge of £ 8 per man & a Blanket which was engaged for every new levied man

For these amongst other reasons it was that I resolv'd to join the 200 regular troops to the new levied forces & upon this resolution taken there was an absolute necessity of supplying them with Provisions in like manner with the new levies & for the reasons above set forth I hoped for your approbation in doing it out of the Provisions made for the new levied forces Notwithstanding of these reasons I sent Majer Clarke to the Com^{rs} for Provisions at Albany before I granted my Warrant to assure them in case you would allow Provisions to these regular troops that I would either pay or replace the same

After that assurance it was that I made the s^d warrant wherefor if you upon mature deliberation disapprove of the reasons I have given it will lye upon me to pay or replace all the Provisions issued to these Independent companies by virtue of that warrant which I shall be ready to do hoping from his Majesty's goodness he will not let me suffer for what I conceiv'd best for his Service the good of this Province & the publick cause

As to the Warrant set forth in your Resolves to have

been granted by me to Henry Holland dated the 24th of July last it was granted in the Form of the Warrant to Mess^r Bayard & Holland in this place which Form was advised & approved off by a full Council here before I went to Albany.

As to the remainder of your resolves I shall now acquaint you that when in pursuance of the plan of operations agreed on as before I was about to give orders for the marching of the Forces from Albany I sent M^r Colden to the Com^{rs} for Provisions at Albany to acquaint them with that my Intention & of the necessity that the Provisions should go with the Forces & that as by the Act for raising these Provisions they were intrusted with the care of them I was desirous that they would take the care of the Transportation of them either by themselves or such persons as they should think proper to agree with that the Provisions might be deliver'd out to the Captains from time to time pursuant to the directions of the Act M^r Colden having acquainted the Com^{rs} with my desire they made some objection thereto & to which I requested him to give for answer that in case you would not agree to pay for transportation (which happen'd not to be expressly provided for by the Act) I would pay it And that if they refused this necessary care I should thereby be laid under an absolute necessity of appointing some other persons to take this care upon them

M^r Colden thereon reported to me that these reasons had proved Satisfactory to the Com^{re} & that they had consented to take care of the Provisions as I had desir'd on the condition proposed & M^r Cuyler one of the Com^{rs} came afterwards to me & confirmed M^r Colden's report & only desir'd that the agreem^t they had come into should be confirm'd in Council & enter'd on the minutes thereof This I consented to & call'd a Council on purpose but was exceedingly surprized when M^r Cuyler being called into the Council room deliver'd a written paper of a very different tenor & refused absolutely to comply with what he had before consented to.

Afterwards pursuant to the Plan of operations I gave orders for the marching of the Forces from Albany upon which I must observe that if I was in my duty for doing so as I think I was and of which his Majesty I conceive is the only Judge then the Com^{rs} could not be in their Duty in withholding the Provisions without which it was impossible to put my orders in Execution I must further observe to you if my orders for marching were good & to be obey'd which I think they were then were the Council of War in their Duty in advising & Coll Roberts in his Duty in issuing the Warrant set forth in your resolves & in like manner was Mr Holland in Executing of that Warrant And as I differ in opinion from you on this head I cannot comply with your request to order his Majesty's attorney Gen^l to prosecute these Gentlemen whom I conceive to have been acting according to their Duty but shall humbly submit the matter to his Majesty & to his Ministers & shall punctually put in execution the orders I shall receive from them on that head.

Tho in the points submitted to his Majesty I think I may rely on the preceeding facts yet if I be rightly inform'd the contrary to some facts recited in your resolves will appear to be true but as these things have been transacted since I left Albany & I have not as yet sufficient information I shall pass them over at present I assure you Gentⁿ that if any Sinister dealing or any imbezlement of the Provisions have been or shall be I shall do my utmost to discover them & heartily join with you in all rational measures for obtaining Justice to the Province concerning them & in punishing the Dilinquents I further assure you that whatever Provisions have been or shall be impressed shall be no less liable to be accounted for to you than if they had remain'd in the Com^{rs} hands And therefor I hope that the further Provisions you are to furnish may be put into the hands of such persons as will not render such proceeding (as lately have been) necessary to obtain them out of their hands for the use of the army.

Gentlemen there is something in your resolves with respect to M^r Colden which I know not by what name to call it with publick decency to you because I believe few of you were sensible of the tendency of what you then did but for this reason I think my self obliged to say something more particularly with respect to him Some-time before I set out from this Place for Albany I in council desir'd as many of the Gentlemen of the Council as were willing or could go with me to assist in the publick affairs which were to be transacted there & which all allow'd to be of great weight They all at that time named M^r Colden (who was not then present) as a proper person for that purpose & all the others declin'd the Service except M^r Livingston And tho' M^r Colden on his return to town convinced me of the disservice it might be of to his private interest I prevail'd on him to go When we came to Albany that place was afflicted with a contagious Distemper of which many dy'd more perhaps in proportion to the number of people during our residence there of near three months on the publick Service than perhaps has happen'd in this age in North America. Now Gentlemen I shall ask you that supposing some slip had happen'd in M^r Colden's Conduct while such variety of matters came under consideration & incidents which disconcerted I believe well laid Schemes for the Service of this Country & which I believe were not foreseen by the wisest men in it & he for so long a time exposed himself to sickness & Death was it not your Duty to have excused such slip when it might well be supposed to flow from the weakness of human understanding & a zeal at the same time for the publick Service Common gratitude I think in this case requires it But if on the other hand it appear as I think it must to all indifferent Judges that M^r Colden as to the transaction relating to the Provisions really did his Duty & a Duty from which he could not excuse himself what construction shall I put upon your proceedings whereby you endeavour to render him odious to the people of this Province & every other officer who acted in obedience to my orders in the prosecution of their Duty

But there is something more than all this when I & he are considered in our present Stations as I am Governor of this Province & he the person on whom the Administration devolves which may make the Tendency of these resolves deserve your most serious consideration

Cadwallader Colden to George Clarke

[Copy]

NEW YORK Nov^r 26th 1746

S^r

I was exceedingly glad when I learn'd from your self that you & the Ladies were after all your misfortunes safe in London & I hope you have now a full recompence by the pleasures you enjoy with your Children & friends The affairs of this Gov^t have taken such an unexpected turn since you left it that I find myself under some difficulty to give you such an acct of them as you desire of me You know that I kept my self retired from publick Business since our present Gov^{rs} arival When his Majesty's orders for the Expedition ag^t Canada came I was sent for to Toun I was surprised to find that all the Gov^{rs} friends had left him & were indeavouring at this critical conjuncture to distress him to that degree that his friends in England should think it proper to recall him He was under a necessity to apply himself to me for advice The Station in which you know I am made it my Duty more especially at this time when the Success of that Expedition might in a great measure depend on the conduct of affairs here to assist to the best of my Capacity tho' I was sensible enough of the hazard I run from the resentment of others but I was in hopes to behave in such manner as to give them no real cause by showing as much as possible a respectfull behaviour to them without any attempt to gain a personal power But as the Gov^r has extricated himself beyond all their expectations from Difficulties which they imagined he could never sur-

mount & especially by the unexpected success in his Treaty with the Six Nations the resentment seems now to be levell'd at me & they are desirous again to make their Court to the Gov^r tho in a very odd manner What may be the event of all this I know not His Excell^y I think remains sensible of the Services I have don him but however it be I have the Satisfaction of having acted to the best of my understanding in what I thought my Duty & I do not doubt of your friendship & Justice if in any thing personal to me you have an opportunity to be usefull Pray S^r make my Complements to M^{rs} Hyde & the Young Ladies your Daughters I shall allwise have a particular pleasure in hearing of the Prosperity of your family Mine are all well

To the Hon^{ble} GEORGE CLARKE Esq
To the Care of Mess^{rs} SAMUEL & WILLIAM
BAKER Merchants in London

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

My Dear

Josiah Reeder came this moment between nine & ten a clock at night to tell me that he is to go with Hennion this night & I have no longer time to write than while he stays I have three from you with my Bedding & am glad Sandy & Betty are safe home. I am resolv'd to return by Bogardus (who will sail about beginning of next week) if Ellison's boat do not come down & Business do not oblige me to stay to go by his boat You cannot be more desirous of my returning than I am & nothing but something which I do not foresee will prevent me from returning by Ellison's boat at farthest I am as much tired of this place as I can be of any thing tho I hope my time has been spent to some purpose Tell Sandy that M^r Moore says he is supplied with flax seed & that it falls by reason of the great quantity ten thousand hogshead from Philadelphia & five thousand allready from this place I am in perfect good health & have nothing to make me un-

easy but my absence from you Remember me to my Aunt & the Children I hope to leave the place before the Assembly rises w^{ch} I think cannot be in a fortnight yet I am

Your most affectionate
CADWALLADER COLDEN

Nov^r 28th

Munday night

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at
Coldenghame

From Eleanor Rutherford

S^{ir}

I am Sure you must think it very odd I have been soe long in acknowledgeing the Honour you did me in writing me soe long a Letter but the last Opportunity we had to York I was very ill of the Cold.

I was very glad to hear of your being at York that you might put a Stop to all the folly that was going on there which you have now done effectually you have made the Governour make such a figure in all his Speeches as must make hime admired at Home as well as over all this Continent; let me tell you Sir you have a great dell to Answer for, for haveing Burried soe long in the Country thos Tallents you are soe Happily possest of, if you return to your Farm as Coll^l Johnston Says you are talking of, it will not be Acting that disinterested Part you have don hither to when ever you goe Home things will go as they used to doe and you'l have the Trouble of coming back to doe all over again: you see my Spirit of Prophisy has not left me yet; soe take warning and stay where you are lest a worse thing befalls you.

We are all in great Expecttations just now of news as we hear the Mermaid is come to Boston the Captains here long much for a Sight of there Commissions and Pay & Mr. Ruth. longs much to here of the theme we had at

Parting he says he would give more then he Spock of to here of one being tou and he in the G—— part I beg my Compliments to Mrs Colden and the rest of your Family when you write Mr. Ruth: jons with me in his compliments I am

Sir

Your aff Frd

Ob. and Humble Ser

ELEANOR RUTHERFURD

P. S. ALBANY Dec^m 9 1746

Pray writt us news what can G St. Clare be doing at Cork we are all in the Dark here

Cadwallader Colden to ———

[Copy]

NEW YORK Dec^r 10th 1746

S^r

Tho' I have given you the trouble of two letters by the two ships that sail from hence about this time My friend Captⁿ Catherwood Secretary to his Excell^y our Governor going in one of them with design to return Speedily In hopes that he will take the trouble to deliver this with his own hand His Excell^y has been so kind as to propose something in my favour to the Duke of New Castle of which Captⁿ Catherwood will inform you & I presume on your Friendship if by your acquaintance you can be of any use to me in what is proposed or otherwise I am

S^r

Your most obedient
humble Servant

Representation to Clinton of seven members of the Council in reference to Colden's pamphlet on the Treaty with the Six Nations

To his Excellency the honourable George Clinton Esq. Captain Generall And Governour in Chief of the Province of New York And the Territories thereon Depending in America Vice Admirall of the Same and Vice Admirall of the Red Squadron of his Majestys fleet

The Humble Representation of the Underwritten Members of his Majestys Council for the Said Province.

May it Please your Excellency.

We his Majestys most Dutifull and Loyall Subjects the Underwritten Members of his Majestys Council for the Province of New York, beg Leave to Acquaint your Excellency, That it is with Real Concern we find Ourselves Under the Necessity of Laying before you Our Sentiments in this Manner.

When We observe the Harmony, which has Subsisted between the Severall Branches of the Legislature Industriouslly Attempted to be Interrupted, We should look upon Ourselves as Deficient in Our Duty to his Majesty, Our Regard for your Excellency, And the peace And Wellfare of the Province, And also Wanting in point of Justice to Our Selves, Should We Remain Silent Upon So Urgent an Occasion,

We Shall therefore State to your Excellency Some facts and Make a few Observations and Reflections thereupon, Such, as do Naturally Arise from them We begin with a Pamphlet Lately Printed in this City Entituled "a Treaty Between Your Excellency and the Six United Indian Nations And other Indian Nations Depending on the Province of New York," the Originall of Which M^r Colden Confessed in Councill he had Delivered to the Printer with Directions to Print and also Owned himself the Author of it.

We were Greatly Surprized to find therein a Paragraph Containing a Misrepresentation of facts and an Invidious Reflection Levelled at Such of the Members of his Majestys Council as did not Attend your Excellency to Albany.

It is Observable from Some Little Instances of Vanity Interspersed in this performance, that M^r Colden Seems to have Calculated it principally with a View to Raise a Character, or Some Reputation to himself and to Lessen, that of Others.

But We Shall at this time only Take Notice of What is Contained in the Page Number'd 3 as follows.

"His Excellency the Governour of New York having Received his Majesties Commands to Engage the Indian Nations depending on his Government to Join in the Expedition then Intended Against Canada, And to make them the Usual presents on that Occasion; and being Sensible of the Great Use these Nations may be to the Success of this Enterprize and likewise of the Difficultys that probably might attend his Endeavours at this time was Desirous to have had the Assistance of as many of the Members of his Majestys Council as the Circumstances of Affairs would permitt, But they all Declined to Give their Attendance Except M^r Colden and M^r Livingston, His Excellency was therefore obliged to Act with the Smallest Number of Members Which by his Majestys Commission Can form a Councill Vizt three, the above Two Gentlemen and Cap^t Rutherford who was then at his Post in Albany."

We Appeal to your Excellency whether any one upon Reading this, would not Naturally Conclude (and Whether the Author does not Evidently Design by Insinuation to have his Readers believe) that the Rest of the Councill did Refuse that Service out of Disregard to Your Excellency, and without Good Reason, and that Mr Colden did Voluntarily offer to Give his Attendance As well as Mr Livingston.

We beg Leave to Remind Your Excellency of the real truth of the Matter

Some time before Your Excellency's departure for Albany, You were pleased to Mention in Council that You had appointed to Meet the Indians there on the 20th of July and Desired to know which of the Council would Attend you thither, Whereupon there Was Discourse in Council who Should Attend your Excellency at that time.

Mr Livingston Made No hesitation but Chearfully Offered to go, which the Council Approved of, As he has Long been one of his Majestys Council, one of the Commissioners And Secretary for Indian Affairs And as he is a Gentleman who had Generally Resided in that County, and has a large Estate in it, the Council thought that his Opinion would be of Considerable Service and could not fail of having Great Weight with your Excellency.

Mr Colden So far from Voluntarily offering to Give his Attendance, Refused to go, in the Strongest Manner, And Amongst the Severall Excuses he made, that Which he Seemed to Lay the Greatest Stress upon Was, that the Last time he was up, It Cost him £ 30 But the Council were of opinion that As he had Not Attended that Service for Severall years, and as he Resided In the next County to Albany, he ought to Take his Turn at this Time.

From hence Your Excellency May perceive that what is Insinuated in that pamphlett as to himself, Cannot be true

Mr Kennedy and Mr Moore (Two others of his Majestys Council) were to attend Generall Gooch, to Albany Who had Wrote your Excellency that he Sould Set Out from Virginia for this place, About the time Your Excellency was to Embarge for Albany and therefore Was Expected in a few days,

So that as Matters Were Setled Your Excellency had as Many Members to Attend you at Albany, As had heretofore Usually Attended Upon Indian Treatys, and as the Circumstances of Affairs would permitt, And had Mr Gooch Arrived at the Expected time, and those Gentlemen Attended him to Albany Your Excellency would

then have had five of the Councill with you there—And there would have been but five Left here to Take Care in your Absence of the peace and Safety of this City, and the Lower parts of the Province According to Your Excellencys Recommendation in Councill

There Was Great Reason to Apprehend that these Lower parts of the Province were Endangered by the Great Draughts of Men Taken from hence, to go upon the Expedition, As it was Suspected that the Brest Squadron Was Intended to pay a Visit in these parts and it was Naturall to Suppose that the Enemy would make an Attack along the Sea Coast. It therefore became Necessary for the Councill here to Send Directions for Drawing in the Strength of the Adjoining Counties to Defend this City in Case of an Attack, to Desire the Assistance of our Neighbours; to forward the Compleating the fortifications in and about this City, to form a plan for the Disposition of the City Militia, and to Expedite the New Levies to Albany, all Which was Carefully attended to. And Shews the Expediency of having a Number of the Councill here Especially of Such who Constantly Reside in this City, to Give Weight and Authority to their Directions.

These Sir, are Generall Reasons; besides Which, there Were Some particular Reasons, which the other Members present had for Detaining them here.

The Indisposition of the family of M^r Chief Justice DeLancey It was Well known, Could not admitt of his Absence, M^r Horsmanden had attended Your Excellency twice at Indian Treatys; Neither was he at the time in A Good State of health, And Moreover the presence of those two Gentlemen, was Required as Judges of the Supream Court, which was then Shortly to be held in this City, And your Excellency was pleased afterwards upon M^r Horsmandens Mentioning his Indisposition Readily to Excuse him.

M^r Murray by the Engagements his profession Laid him Under, was also obliged to Attend the Ensueing

Court and he had also Waited upon your Excellency at the two Treatys before.

Mr Bayard was Appointed by your Excellency one of the Commissarys for Building Battoes And furnishing other Necessarys for the Expedition therefore his Absence from hence Could not be Dispensed with.

Mr Courtlandt was not then present, Nor had he been for Some Councils before.

This pamphlett having been published while the Council Were Sitting as a part of the Legislature, the Council thought it Necessary to pass a Censure upon it—"That the aforesaid paragraph Contains a Misrepresentation of facts and an Invidious Reflection Upon the Members of his Majestys Council who Remained at the City of New York during your Excellencys Absence at the Late Treaty at Albany."

And as this Pamphlett had been Dispersed in print the Council also thought it Equally Necessary to have their Censure put in print And Ordered it Accordingly.

It is with Extream Uneasiness, that in Vindication of Ourselves, We are obliged to Take Notice of this pamphlett And We cannot omit observing that Mr Colden had Delivered it to the Printer with Directions to Print it, a Considerable time before Your Excellencys propositions to the Indians And their Answers were Delivered in to the Clerk of the Council Which Cannot be thought a Decent Treatment of his Majestys Council of the Province.

From hence your Excellency may Perceive the Councils Moderation in the Censure they have Passed Some days after your Excellency Returned hither You Were pleased to Say in Council that the Minutes of the proceedings at Albany Should be Laid before the Council here, But that your Excellencys Secretary had been Indisposed, and had not had time to Draw them out, Mr. Colden soon after came down, and We Cannot but Impute it to his Advice, that those proceedings Were not Laid before the Council According to your Excellencys Declaration.

Sometime afterwards Your Excellency (being Indisposed) Sent a Message to the Councill in Writing Dated the 18th of October in the following Words Viz^t “the Commissioners for Delivering the provisions at Albany having Refused to Deliver provisions, otherwise than According to the Words of the Act of Assembly to Every Captain, and at Albany, it became Impracticable for Colonell Roberts to put the orders in Execution Which I left with him and upon this I must observe to you, that if the provisions for the Army be put into persons hands Independant of the Generall And Commanding officer, all his Designs may at any time be frustrated And his Authority, and Command become Ineffectual, I therefore Desire Your Advice On this head and Likewise on the particulars of Which Colonell Roberts, and Whether it be not proper And Necessary to Establish Court Martials for the punishment of Mutiny and Desertions &c The Councill having Mett Immediately thereupon Went into a Committee, and it being objected, that as Some part of the Message, upon which their Advice Was Desired, Related to the Transactions at Albany Which had not been Communicated the Committee Could not proceed upon the Consideration of that part of the Message, for Want of the Materials Necessary for their Information, Mr. Colden Replied: “Put that Down as a Reason, but I do not know that it is usuall Or that the Councill here have a Right to See them for We at Albany were as Much a Councill as you but” put that Down as a Reason, and Yet your Excellency may Remember that When a Report Was afterwards made, and this Was assigned as a Reason Why the Committe Could not Give their Advice M^r Colden Objected to that part of the Report (this was On the Saturday) On the Monday following the Consideration of this Message was Resumed when the same objection being made and M^r Colden (the only Counsellor present who had Advised your Excellency at Albany) being asked, why the Orders Left by your Excellency with Colonell Roberts Mentioned in the Said Message of Reference were not Laid before the Councill” he said, he did

not know whether the" Council had a Right to see them or not; And being Asked whether he had seen them, he Replied he did not think he was obliged to Answer that Question, However the Committe being Desirous to Answer your Excellencys Message, so far as they could from the faint Light Afforded them, they on the 21st of October Made the following Report, "In obedience to your Excellencys Message to us of the 18th Instant, the Committe having duly Weighed and Considered of the Same, beg Leave to Report thereon

"First, That the Commissioners at Albany Could Not be Warranted in Delivering the provisions in their possession, otherwise, that according to the Act of the Legislature, And the Committe are of opinion, that if there be any Defect in the Act the Same Should be pointed Out to the Generall Assembly that they may consider of it, in order to have it Rectified,

"2^{dly} With Respect to the Bounty Money and Blanketts, we find the same by the Act for the Encourageing Voluntiers to Inlist is to be Given to all Such as Shall Inlist and not to the first Twelve hundred Only, and We Conceive that Two Thousand four hundred pounds and No More, having been Lodged in the Commissioners hands at Albany, was done upon a Supposition that No More than Twelve hundred Men would be brought to the place of Rendevouz And We make No Question, but that the Assembly Will make good the Additionall Bounty to the other 100 Men (Mentioned in M^r Roberts Letter to be Unprovided for) when they are Apprized of it

"Thirdly that As your Excellency has Not been pleased to Communicate to the Members of his Majesties Council in this place, the Transactions Which have passed at Albany, and which has been usually done heretofore, the Committee humbly Conceives that they are not Enabled to Give your Excellency their Advice on the other particulars of M^r Roberts Letter for Want of Sufficient Materialls for their Information however, they Cannot but think that a Winter Camp in that Northern Country May probably Endanger the Lives of Many of

the Soldiers, more Especially as the Small pox is got Among Some of them And Many more have not yet had it, And thereby be of Great Prejudice to his Majestys Service in Case the Expedition Against Canada Should be Carried on next Year.

“4^{thly} The Committe are of opinion that to prevent the frequent Desertions of the Men, it may be proper for your Excellency to Hold Courts Martiall, if your Excellency be Empowered So to do According to the Act of parliament for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, But We Cannot Give Any farther opinion On this head, Untill your Excellency Shall have been pleased to Lay before us, the Powers you have Received from his Majesty in Relation to this particular

Upon Reading this Report to your Excellency in Council M^r Colden after Making some objections to the third paragraph, proposed the Report Should be Reconsidered and Said “That all the proceedings at Albany Should be Laid before the Committee in Order to Enable them to form a Right Judgment Upon them.” Whereupon the Councill (in Expectation that What he Undertook in your Excellencys presence And hearing would have been preformed) Readily Agreed the Report Should be Referred back And Although the Rough heads of the Minutes Taken at Albany Referring to the principall papers were Delivered into the hands of the Clerke Yet as the principall papers themselves (without Which it was Impossible to form a Judgment) Were not Delivered (nor have they to this time been Laid before the Committe) they have Not been Enabled to Give any further Opinion.

Is not, Sir, this Conduct of M^r Coldens very Surprising, What Reflections must this Naturally Excite in the Minds of the Rest of his Majestys Councill

We beg Leave also to Mention to your Excellency Some few Instances Wherein we Conceive your Excellency has not been well Advised.

The Manner in which your Excellencys Speech of the

17th of October Last was Delivered Viz^t by M^r Colden to the Councill And by the Speaker to the Assembly.

Your Excellencys Recommending a perfect Harmony between the Severall Branches of the Legislature with this Observation. "That Differences often Arise from Imaginary Evills and the Weakness of Human Nature is Such, that Mankind are Seldom free from Real Causes of Mistrust, But these Likewise Are often Aggravated by the private Views of artfull And Designing Men." When We may Safely affirm that there never was a Greater Harmony Subsisting between the Severall Branches of the Legislature that when Your Excellency made your Pathetick Speech to the Council and Assembly on the 6th of June Last Concerning the Intended Expedition, Which Will appear by Reviewing and Considering Your Excellencys Said Speech wherein You Say, "I am perfectly Satisfied that it is Needless for me to Recommend the Cultivating an Union And Harmony Amongst You, upon a Subject So Agreeable to all your Inclinations."

The Zeal and Chearfullness Expressed in the Addresses of the Councill And Assembly to your Excellency thereupon And your Excellencys Answers thereto, all of the Same day And by the Resolutions and Steps immediately after And before M^r Colden Came down, who During those Transactions was Attending his ordinary Domestick affairs in the Country.

How this Good Understanding Came to be Interrupted And by what means in so Short a time as from the 6th of June to the 17th of October, Your Excellency was So far Induced to Change Your Sentiments, As to Imagine there Were Differences Subsisting between the Severall Branches of the Legislature, We Cannot Account for.

We know not of any "Differences Arising from Imaginary Evills" And We beg Leave to Assure Your Excellency that We are not of the Number of "Artful And Designing Men who by private Views Aggravate Real Causes of Mistrust."

And here in Justice to the Province We think Our Selves Obliged to Take Notice, that they have been at a Greater Expence towards this Expedition than Any other of the Governments to the Westward of us, and that the Charge of finding the Troops Raised in this Province with provisions is More, than that of New Jersey, Pensilvania, Maryland and Virginia Altogether, And though your Excellency Was not advised to Recom-mend by your Last Speech to the Assembly, the Sup-port of Government for the Current Year, nor the Mak-ing further provision for Victualling the New Levies (which Latter Considering the Season of the year was Absolutely Necessary to be done Immediately) how-ever notwithstanding that omission the Assembly Read-ily Voted it and passed also the Bill for the Support of Government.

On the Twenty third of October your Excellency Sent a Message to the Assembly, upon which and your Excellencys Speech, the Assembly made a Representation Which was Delivered by your Excellencys appointment on the 5th of November to which your Excellency gave An Answer on the 10th of the Same Month

On the 8th of November the Assembly upon the Let-ters of Mess^{rs} Tenbrook And Cuyler and the Examina-tion of the Said Cuyler Came to Severall Resolutions Communicated to your Excellency In Answer to which, Your Excellency Sent a Message to the house on the 24th of November

The 26th of November the house Came to Some other Resolutions And your Excellency on the 28th Sent them a Message as an Answer

These things we Gather from the Printed Votes and proceedings of the Assembly and Were Transacted With-out your Excellencys ever asking the Councill their Ad-vice and opinion upon them, all the observation that We shall make upon them is that We Impute them to the Advice and Influence of Mr Colden, and perhaps had your Excellency been pleased to have Consulted his

Majesties Councill of the Province, Matters Might not have been Carried to So great Lengths.

Your Excellency did not Consult with the Councill As to the Late prorogation and We cannot Recollect any Instance Wherein that Step has been Omitted, Neither did your Excellency Enquire of the Councill the Reasons Which Induced them to pass the two Bills which your Excellency was pleased to Reject, the one Entituled "and Act for appointing Commissioners to Take, Examine And State the Publick Accounts of the Colony from the year 1713"—the other Entituled "An Act for the More Effectuall Cancelling the Bills of Credit of this Colony" to the former of Which M^r Colden made Some objection Which the Rest of the Council did not think Materiall And to the Latter there was no objection at all that we know, or have heard of Both Which Bills We Conceive were of publick Utility.

Your Excellency did not think proper to Communicate to the Councill (we are at a loss for what Reason) the Minutes of Indian Affairs before the Commissioners at Albany Giving an Account of Hendrick, the Indians Transactions in Canada Which is thing of Importance and proper to be known by the Councill, and Which We are Informed, had been sent to your Excellency by Express

These Instances Which We have but barely Touched upon (Among many others We Chuse to Omitt) Cannot be Considered otherwise than As Slights upon the Councill All Which We apprehend We have Reason to Impute to the Advice and Influence of M^r Colden and We Take the Liberty to agree in opinion with your Excellency, that from the time you have been pleased to Rely Solely upon his Advice your Excellency "has Gone thro more Difficultys And has had Less Assistance than (We believe) any Governour of New York before you"

Mr Colden has Told the World in Print of his being the Next person to your Excellency in the Administration We shall Not Make Any Reflections on this Circumstance But Leave your Excellency to Consider,

Whether it may Not be his Interest to Embroil your Excellencys Affairs And Distract your Administration, the Consequence of Which may be his getting the Reins of Government into his own hands, And here perhaps Your Excellency May find that, Which Was Intended As a Reflection Upon others One of those "Artfull and Designing Men who *have*" private Views

We Must Take the Liberty to Remind Your Excellency that We, as yet, have the honour to be of his Majestys Councill for this Province, and as Such Ought to be Consulted, And We do assure Your Excellency that We are Not Conscious we have been, Nor shall We On Any occasion be Wanting in Our Duty to his Majesty in any point, Nor in Giving his Governour here, the best advice and all the assistance in Our power to Make his Administration Easy And We think We Cannot Discharge that Duty More Effectually, that We now do (Constrained by the present Scituation of Affairs) by humbly Laying before Your Excellency Our Sentiments in this Manner, Which we Earnestly Entreat your Excellency Calmly, and Seriously to Consider.

We are

Sir

Your Excellencys

Most obedient Humble Servants

PH LIVINGSTON

JAMES DELANCEY

PHILLIP CORTLANDT

DAN HORSMANDEN

JOS. MURRAY

JOHN MOORE

STEPHEN BAYARD.

City of New York
16 December 1746

Memorandum in Colden's Handwriting

It may be necessary to take notice of a Publication made by the Council in a common Newspaper call'd the New York Postboy of the 8th of December 1746 I remember that day M^r Colden being with me about the time of day the Council was to meet told me that he would then go to Council because for some time before so few attended that it was with difficulty a sufficient number could be made up to do Business & that he was desirous as much as possible to avoid giving any occasion of their blaming him Since this publication was made he tells me that he was surprised upon his coming into the Council room to see every member present which he thinks could not have happen'd at that time had there not been a previous application to them separately He further tells me that M^r Chief Justice did as set forth produce the printed paper called a Treaty &c & moved that the printer should be sent for in order to know who had given him the Copy On which M^r Colden answer'd that it was needless to take that trouble for he had giv'n the Copy M^r Chief Justice further insisted to know whether M^r Colden had order'd it to be printed The whole of this proceeding have been a surprise on M^r Colden & his seeing most of the Council prepared three Lawyers Present & two of them Judges & all these three prepared with formed speeches he hesitated a litle in answering to that Question but in less than half a minute own'd that he had desir'd the printer to publish it Then M^r Horsmanden mov'd that the paragraph read by the Chief Justice should be censur'd as an invideous Maliceous & false representation of Facts Upon which M^r Colden observ'd that the Word Declining might be with a lawfull excuse as well as without it & thought they would not dispute the matter of Fact To which M^r Horsmanden answer'd it was a Sophistical way of arguing & was going on Warmly when M^r Colden desir'd him to have regard to the Decency of proceedings in the Coun-

cil & the regard that was due to him while he had the honour to be in the Chair And further told them that if they took any thing amiss in this publication it would be more proper to take notice of it when they acted as a privy Council than in this place where the Council acted only as a part of the Legislature Upon which Mr Chief Justice dropping M^r Horsmanden's Motion Mov'd to have that paragraph censured as an invidious misrepresentation On which M^r Colden said he believ'd this paragraph could be clear'd from the Envy that they charged on him but that he did not say the words set forth in the publication how that he had no intention to reflect they insisted on having the Question put & it was accordingly carried So far I am informed by M^r Colden I shall only observe that as it seems to me the publication of this without any manner of application to me plainly shows the Spirit by which they intend to Act viz By moving up a popular Faction Otherwise if any of the Council had been guilty of any misdemeanour of this kind where I must know the truth it would have [been] proper to have apply'd to me for redress which in this case they have in no manner don Applications to the People from the House of Representatives has some colour of excuse but when the Council endeavour to set up a popular power & neglect any application in the proper way & make themselves both parties & Judges it seems to have a Tendency destructive of all good Government This with several other Instances to be given of the late proceedings of the Council & Assembly of this Province I think evidently show how necessary it is to curb this spirit otherwise I know not to what lengths it may go It will plainly appear from several instances that there is an endeavour in a Faction to run M^r Colden down & they may think that if they can succeed in this considering his Station all others will be under dread to oppose them But notwithstanding of all their endeavours to move the people in their favor I have reason to believe that they no way succeed in that point but the contrary

From Governor George Clinton

NEW YORK 17 Dec^r 1746

Sir

Since You left me I have receiv'd a Letter from the Lords of Trade with some Querys for me to Answer, part of which I am unacquainted with; but as your long Experience here, may enable You to give Answers to them I've enclosed them for that end, excepting that of the Acts w^{ch} I've done, and have order'd the Number of Inhabitants to be made out some time ago.

I have advices from Gov^r Shirley that the New England Troops are ab^t marching towards the Frontiers of the Province for the Reduction of Crown point, unless the small pox &c prevents them, w^{ch} I have acquainted Gov^r Shirley stil prevails among our Troops I hope You gott safe Home and am

no time is limited for these You will receive from M^r
operations nor no Plan sent Nicols a Copy of a repre-
me sentation delivered me last

Tuesday by y^e Council
which is to be laid before
his Grace of Newcastle and

I very readerly joyned in the thing & told them it was what I approved off, y^t I have no occasion to make any answer to it, I have made some proper remarks on it, very busey time for Catherwood goes away to morrow morning.

M^{rs} Clinton joyns with me desiring y^e Compliments of the Season to you M^{rs} Colden & Family & do assure you I am with great Scincerity

Sir

Your faithfull humble
Servant

G: CLINTON

N. York 22^d X^{bre}

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq.

GENERAL QUERIES from the Board of Trade to the Hon^l George Clinton Esq^r Governor of New York, for his answer thereunto as soon as conveniently may be

- 1 What is the Situation of the Province under your Government; the Nature of the Country Soil and Climate, the Latitudes and Longitudes of the most considerable Places in it, or the neighbouring French or Spanish Settlements? Have those Latitudes & Longitudes being settled by good observation, or only by common Computations & from whence are the Longitudes computed?
- 2 What are the reputed Boundaries, and are any Parts thereof disputed, what Parts, & by whom?
- 3 What is the Constitution of the Government?
- 4th What is the Trade of the Province, the Number of Shipping their Tonnage, & the Number of seafaring Men, with the respective Increase or Diminution within ten years past?
- 5 What Quantity & sorts of British Manufactures do the Inhabitants annually take from hence?
- 6 What Trade has the Province under your Government, with any foreign Plantations or any Part of Europe, besides Great Britain? How is that Trade carried on What Commodities do the People under your Government Sent to, or receive from foreign Plantations
- 7 What Methods are there used to prevent illegal Trade, and are the same effectual?
- 8 What is the Natural Produce of the Country, Staple Commodities & Manufactures and what Value thereof in Sterling money may you annually export?
- 9 What Mines are there?
- 10 What is the Number of Inhabitants Whites & Blacks?
- 11 Are the Inhabitants increased or decreased within

- the late ten years how much and for what Reasons
- 12 What is the Number of the Militia?
 - 13 What Forts and Places of Defence are there within your Government? and in what Condition?
 - 14th What Number of Indians have you & how are they inclined.
 - 15 What is the Strength of the Neighbouring Indians
 - 16 What is the Strength of your Neighbouring Europeans, French or Spaniards
 - 17 What Effect have the French or Spanish Settlements on the Continent of America upon His Majestys Plantations especially on your Province
 - 18 What is the Revenue arising within your Government, & how is it appropriated
 - 19 What are the Ordinary & Extraordinary Expences of your Government
 - 20 What are the Establishments Civil & Military within your Government and by what Authority do the officers hold their Places

It is desired that an Annual Return may be made of these Queries, that the Board may from time to time be apprized of any Alterations that may happen in the Circumstances of your Government.

From Archibald Kennedy

22^d Dec^r 1746.

Dear Sir

So soon as I heard of the representation, which was not till after they had been with the Gov^r, I desired M^r Catherwood that our frind might have the peruseal of it, who thought the best way woud be for the Gov^r at present to take no notice of it either to them, or at home, at least till he had your observations upon it, which it is possible may still reach M^r Catherwood, Waddel being at a loss for hands, He thinks it one of their best performances, designed chiefly to prevent the consequences

of His Excellency's resentment at home. We have had but one Council since you left us, upon an express from G. Shirley desireing conveniencys may be made at Saratoga for their troops who were ready to March, and to know how to preserve them from the smal pox. What other newes there is you will have in the papers, so that I have only to add that w^t our compliments to the family, I am Dear Doctor

Your very humble Servant
ARCH^d KENNEDY

This thing is not to be printed
where it was hatched you may
guess, but it was licked into
Shape at the Cart & horse where I
hear they had many meetings.

[Indorsed]

To
CADWALLADER COLDEN
Esq

Cadwallader Colden to [John Rutherford?]
[Copy Undated]

Having this Opportunity by my son Cadwallader I can write more freely to you than I thought prudent to do by the common conveyances. You must perceive from the publick papers that the Opposition continues as violent as ever but I believe they have been exceedingly disappointed in two material points One is in the Governors Steadiness to his first resolutions & measure the other in Admiral Waren's neglect of them None having so much as a letter from him & I am inform'd that in case there had been any occasion for it he would have appeared in Vindication of my Character. There are no publick letters from any of the Ministry but the Governors friends assure him that he will receive Instructions that will make him entirely easy. His Excellency seems to be well pleas'd with Captⁿ Wraxall and Captⁿ Campbell I have don all in my power to make him so

& I hope you will be pleas'd with his behaviour towards you & I must intreat you to advise him freely & pass over some oddities which some times perhaps you may observe M^{rs} Rutherford tells me that you are desirous to be at New York I have reason to think it will not be refused you if you desire it because I have mention'd it to the Governor Your being at New York will give me a great deal of pleasure because I believe I must return to New York when the Gov^r returns from Albany & it will of great advantage to me to have your assistance My son is appointed Commissary of the Musters for the New Levies I must beg that you will assist him with your friendly advice he goes full of the hopes of it as he will stand much in need of it by his being litle acquainted with the world In one letter which I receiv'd from London any Expedition agt Canada was thought to be laid aside at this time for this reason that the making conquests abroad can be of litle use while the French remain superior in Europe because in such case they will make what terms of Peace they shall think proper but that it was hoped the case would alter this summer & then if the Allies gain the Superiority in Flanders we may hope to retain what ever conquests can afterwards be made in America in the mean time it was thought proper to make an attempt on Crown point or on Oniagara

Address to The Freeholders & Freemen of the Cities & Counties of the Province of New York On Occasion of the ensueing Elections for Representatives in General Assembly by

A Freeholder in the
same Province

[In handwriting of Cadwallader Colden]

It is with much grief that I have seen the publick dissensions which have subsisted so long in the province of New York at this time of greatest danger from two the

most dreadfull Ennemies this Country can have viz. the French & Indians The French the powerfull ennemies of the common Liberty of Europe & the Indians by whose barbarous cruelty a considerable part of this Province has been laid waste many of the inhabitants have lost their lives in the most inhuman manner & others carried into captivity among savages whilst the People of this Province were threatned with & exposed to such Calamities every impartial looker on & observer wished that our Representatives in Assembly & had rather exerted their Bowels and compassion for the sufferings of the innocent than to have their whole thoughts & all their passions employ'd in Dissentions & contention with their Governor. This I must confess made me hear of the dissolution of the last assembly with some kind of pleasure in hopes that thereby an end may be put to those most unreasonable contentions in this time of danger That thereby the heats & passions which have too long prevail'd might have some time to cool & subside

But alas I was sorry to find by a publication in the News papers that a firm resolution seem'd to be taken to continue them in the next assembly The late representatives of the City of New York & who are known to have had the chief influence in our party disputes like true Game Cocks are no sooner with drawn from the Battle but they Clap their Wings & Crow We are ready to enter the field of battle again with whomever dare to dispute with us

I am much more pleas'd with the sense of Modesty which still remains in a neighbouring colony where it is said nothing can so effectually defeat any ambitious views of this kind as for any man thus audaciously to set himself up. The true roman virtue was allmost totally extinguished before their great or rich men went about to court the common people for their votes The Roman people had lost all those generous & noble Sentiments of honour & Liberty before the lower rank of them be came so low & weak as to take it as favour to be call'd by their

names by their rich men & to be shook by the hand and They were become slaves in their minds before they could sell their Liberty to the highest bidder To the man that would fill their Bellies with wine & good cheer or their hands with silver But as I hope we in this country are far from being in such state I think that I may freely address myself to my Country men of the Province of New York to think for themselves & not to suffer themselves to be deluded with any pretences however fair & taking of either of the contending parties

In examining the pretences of either side I cannot enter into the secrets of their hearts or pretend to be in the secrets of their more hidden views I can only judge of what either side has thought fit to declare to the world and as both sides have submitted what they have published as the tests by which the people of this Province are to Judge of them neither of them I hope will take it amiss that I make some reflections on what they themselves have given us for the foundation of our Judgement of their conduct

In the first place I shall begin with what the Gov^r has said & keep to such part of it as so far as I know has not been denied by his adversaries & for that reason I think must be admitted for truth.

The Gov^r says that he has risked the whole of his Estate in drawing Bills for the payment of the forces at Albany after the Assembly had refused to advance money for that purpose & when not only the Frontiers were indanger of being exposed to the ennemy by the forces posted there deserting but when they likewise threatned to mutiny & to take their pay by plundering of the Country The dangers that we but more especially the farmers in the northern parts of the Country were in seem to have been no otherwise consider'd by our representatives than that the Frontiers may be deserted the Country may be plunder'd The County of Albany may be destroy'd & the inhabitants murder'd if the Governor will not assist them at the risque of his private fortune From all that I can observe in the publick pa-

pers our representatives declare that they will have no other regard to them Can any opposition be carried to a more dangerous heighth than this has been Is it in Order to make this want of compassion pass the more easily among the people that they boldly asserted that the Gov^r had orders to pay these troops but that he refused it He deny'd that he had such orders They never could show any orders that he had & no man of common sense can imagine that the Gov^r durst have refused to pay if he had receiv'd orders for that purpose nor can any reason be assign'd why he should refuse And now lately by the Demand that the King has made on all the northern colonies it is out of Question that the Gov^r had no orders to make the payments which he has made & consequently that they are made at the risque of his own fortune. Notwithstanding of this the assembly remains obstinate let the consequences be as mischievous as can be imagined to their fellow subjects they are resolv'd no way to prevent them. I can see nothing from the publick papers to put this in a better light I think then that this condescension of the Gov^r shews that he is at least a compassionate man when he would rather risque his whole fortune than expose the lives & Estates of the Inhabitants of this Province even after their representatives by their conduct seem to disregard them And this compassion in the Gov^r one would think might deserve thanks at least but so far from this that this generous Action has had no return but scurrilous & obusive language. I wish some person were able to reconcile this with common candour for I can observe nothing in the assembly's publications that can clear them on this head Some people perhaps may be perswaded to hope that by this obstinacy in the Assembly the Province at least has saved so much money If they thought that their prevailing on the Gov^r could have this good effect one would think that it should likewise draw at least good words from them after they had prevail'd on him But I am affray'd it may not have this effect Perhaps this Province may be forced to pay this money with Interest &

their ungratefull & undutyfull behaviour to the King in the Character of his Governour be one reason why they may not be consider'd so graciously as otherwise they might hope to be If this should happen to be the case we who have been most averse from these dissensions & contentions may suffer equally if not more than they who are most guilty

In the next place the Gov^r has told us That in the Fall of the year 1746 he design'd to have erected some kind of Fortification at the carrying place which leads towards Crown point & to have lodged about 500 men there but that by the assembly's commissioners withholding the Provisions & other obstructions he was forced to take up with the Fort at Sarahtoga He says that if he had been at liberty to prosecute his Designs at the Carrying place the Country would have been much better defended than otherwise it was in his power to do That in that case with the assistance of the New England forces which were offer'd for that purpose Crown point might have been attacked in the Winter Season or early in the Spring with the greatest probability of Success when the People of Canada could not send relief to it Great part of last summer past over in the expectation of orders from Court after the season of the year was so far advanced that nothing could be expected from thence the Gov^r with the Assistance of the Council of this Province concerted a plan for attacking Crown Point in conjunction with new England & made an estimate of the charge of the whole expedition over & above what the Gov^r was willing to undertake at the charge of the Crown The whole of this Estimate the charge of which was to be born by the Colonies of Massachusetts bay Connecticut & this jointly amounted to no more than 14000 pounds a small part of the whole charge that must have attended this enterprise yet the assembly refused to come into any part of this charge unless the whole plan were communicated to them. This demand I believe will appear only an evasive denyall to all considerate men who shall consider that no plan of Military Operations ever was com-

municated to Parliament nor ever was desir'd to be communicated to them by either house of Parliament & in the present case that in a few hours after the plan had been thus communicated it must become part of the common conversation of the people of New York & that in a few days after it must become part of the common conversation at Albany & from thence it could not take above a week to be the common conversation in Canada Could the greatest friends to the French desire a more effectual method to defeat any design against them

After this the Colonies of Massachusetts Bay & Connecticut sent Commissioners to New York to concert measures with us for our mutual defence & annoyance of the ennemy & accordingly Articles of Agreement were enter'd into for that purpose which receiv'd the assembly's approbation. Before I go on further I must observe that these Articles were in Substance the same which the Gov^r (as he tells us) had concerted at Albany with the members of the Council of this province & the Comss^{rs} from Boston who attended him there & which the assembly had formerly endeavour'd to expose in a bad light but now they approve of. But for what purpose this approbation was now given I doubt will not be easy to say after it has been observ'd tho' the assembly sat many weeks after this approbation without any kind of Interruption not one step was taken by them towards carrying this agreement into execution Whey they were going on matters foreign to this grand affair of our mutual defence & of small importance of themselves the Gov^r indeavour'd to fix their attention to what immediately concern'd the safety of the People they represent telling them that they may have time enough to consider these matters of less consequence after they had don what was incumbent on them to preserve the lives & estates of the inhabitants from the incursions of a cruel & merciless ennemy What an allarm was sounded on the receipt of this Message as if the Gov^r by this one message had indeavour'd to deprive the People of this Province of all their rights & Privileges I must own

that this ridiculous farce (as the Gov^r I think properly enough calls it) serv'd more than any thing to open my eyes & to let me see that these men who absolutely ruled in the Assembly had in no sense the good of this Province before their eyes That they had nothing so much at heart as to find out methods to lessen the Peoples esteem of their Gov^r & that he had too good grounds to charge them with Malice & resentment & that their whole conduct was guided by those Passions otherwise no man of the least candour or who had the least spark of honour I must think could have endeavour'd to put an action not only innocent of it self but truely usefull on so horrid a light.

The Forces rais'd on the expedition intended against Canada being now to be disbanded the Gov^r inform'd the Assembly how any number of those posted at Albany might be retain'd for the defence of the Frontiers. Tho' any man may easily conceive that the Gov^r had better means of being well inform'd of the Disposition & inclination of both officers & men than it was possible the Assembly could be yet they would not pay any regard to his proposal & went on a Method of their own which on a fair calculation as the Governor assures us must put the Province to 4000 pounds more expence than the method proposed by the Gov^r & which they do not deny Their method has proved ineffectual whereas the Gov^{rs} method he was well assured could not have fail'd

While the assembly was thus delatory & changing their measures the Gov^r thought it his Duty to take all the care in his power of the lives & estates of the inhabitants daily exposed to a cruel & merciless ennemy And as he could not longer depend on any number of the New levies at Albany he thought it incumbent on him to put the Militia in the best posture for the defence of the Province on all events And so far as I have been able to judge no man in his sober senses can blame the Gov^r in any part of his conduct on this occasion yet the (I cannot avoid calling it) perverse humour of the assembly at this time did not only occasion disobedience to these

orders by the resolves which they published but it is likewise well known that several of their members went privately about to instigate the passions of the lowest rank of people to the most wicked purposes.

When this notorious disobedience was told in a neighbouring Colony to a person of distinction there & who is well known to be no friend to despotic principles he Openly exclaim'd that he did not imagine there had been any such disloyal subjects in America [On this occasion I cannot forbear mentioning a piece of Insolence that I am affray'd cannot be believe'd in any other part of the world yet it has been told me by such persons that I cannot doubt of having it sufficiently attested if it should be disputed. As the Companies of Militia were marching past the Gov^{rs} house towards the commons he stood in the window with his youngest daughter a child As one of the companies passed at the head of which an assembly man marched a fellow in one of the ranks turn'd round on his heel faced the window took his gun from his shoulder presented it towards the Window & fired On which occasion the Captain was observ'd to look round and laugh with out giving the least reproof for such an impudent insult

Now from what Principle can this behaviour of the representatives of a People proceed Can such a behaviour either gain reputation or produce any benefite to the Country they represent Can it entitle them to any favour with the King or Parliament or esteem with any man of honour or that has the least sense of good manners

As to my past I am perswaded that the Solemnity of Locking their door & laying the Key on the Table together with this brutal &—behaviour on this occasion of the Militia will with any man that makes the least reflection remove every doubt that could remain of the characters & principles of the heads & directors in the party Dissentions in this Province.

I shall next consider what the Assembly has laid to the Governor's charge I cannot discover that in any in-

stance they have charged him with the least attempt on the Liberty or Property of any one individual or that the law since he has had the administration has been under any kind of restraint so that every man has enjoy'd the full benefite of it in all cases whether publick or private wherein he may think himself aggrieved A Happiness which the People have formerly thought they did not so fully enjoy & which upon serious reflection must pass with sober men as one strong proof of an upright administration

But the heavy charge against him is the converting to his own use the publick money of this Province with which he was intrusted I must confess that after I had seen in what terms this charge was insinuated & when I consider'd that very large sums had been granted by the Assembly of this Province for publick services since the arival of the present Governour I could not doubt but that very large sums had been put in his power at least And therefor I must own that I receiv'd his answer with some surprise when I found from it that he had not since his arival been trusted with litle more than 1800 pounds & that only for the charge which usually attends his meeting with & treating with the Indians whoever considers the expence which unavoidably attends every such meeting must be perswaded that a very small sum if any could by any means be saved out of what was allow'd by the Assembly for those expences. Such as can be called no other than a meer trifle when compared with the noise & clamour which has been industriously rais'd. For this reason I believe impartial judges will suspect that the Slander thrown on the Gov^r under this Pretence must have been for some other purpose than saving of money to the Province This will appear more evident when it is considered that the Gov^r to remove as much as in his power all prejudices on this head declared more than once that he was ready to give his assent to any Bill or clauses to prevent any imbezlement of the publick money or publick stores This seems to me all that could in reason be expected but perhaps the

doing of this would have defeated one principal part of their scheme whereby they engage some men by their Interest to serve as Drums & Trumpets to propagate Slander of their Superiours in order to establish their own power over a deluded People

A very few obvious observations will be sufficient to set this in a proper light Since the Expedition ag^t Canada was set on foot about 70000 pounds has been issued in Bills of Credit Out of this the Assembly allows their Commiss^{rs} 50/ in every hundred by which they have or are to receive since that time 1750 pounds for their own trouble only a Sum very near as great as what the Govr was entrusted with in above four years & out of which only it was in his power to convert any part of the publick money to his private use

May I be allow'd to ask these great men the leaders of an assembly whether several men of as good Credit & reputation as those they have employ'd would not have gladly don all the services required of their Commiss^{rs} for 300 pounds by which near 1500 pounds in this one article would have been saved to the Country I may adventure to say this because every man the least acquainted with trade must know that the benefites otherwise arising in the way of Trade by this office would at least amount to 1500 pounds more. A Pretty perquisite for a Drum & a Trumpet However despicable the name of a Drum or a Trumpet may be with some Gentⁿ yet it is well known that other sorts of Gentⁿ understand their Interest better than to loose so beneficial employment for the sake of a name And what Gentleman of that sort would not as things now stand rather be a Drum or a Trumpet for an assembly than for a Gov^r who can give neither fee nor perquisite

On this Occasion every one must remember that Rumour & Report was a fine engine to throw dirt upon a Governour But we who are not assembly men may think it as proper an implement against assembly men Commiss^{rs} If rumour & report be a sufficient round to

charge a Gov^r why has it not some force to charge others when rumour & report is as strongly against them

There has been a rumour & report that considerable quantities of Beef & Pork was so bad that it was condemn'd as unfit to be eat Yet this cost the Country the same price with good Rumour & Report affirms that several barrels of Bread had good bread at both ends & in the middle what was only fit for hogs & yet the middle cost the same price to the Country with the best Rumour & report told us that the men were cheated out of one quarter of the rum allow'd them & paid for by the Country. And Rumour & report positively affirms that very considerable quantities of the Countries Provision has been sold at Albany & converted to private use

May I ask how it comes that Rumour & Report should be of such Credit against a Gov^r & deserves no notice or regard when it is as positive an evidence against assembly men & their Creatures

After this he must be a meer Simple David indeed who can believe that the abusive language which has been vented against Gov^r Clinton was only to prevent his imbezling the publick Treasure What other purpose it was to serve the assembly has not thought proper to own But as it does not require any extraordinary Sagacity to discover it I shall leave it to the enquiry of the Electors of New Assembly men

They must be but little acquainted with mankind who can think there could be any great danger from the power of a Governour when they who are subject to his power dare treat him in the manner Gov^r Clinton has been treated If this be the case may not the Inhabitants of the Province of New York be affray'd of an assembly's obtaining too great a power. The nature of our constitution certainly supposes it possible when the whole Beauty of it consists in the due Ballance between the several branches of the Legislature Our constitution may as certainly be destroy'd by an over great power in the assembly as in the Gov^r There has been too strong an instance of it in our Mother Country But I shall at this

time only make some observations on the Power which this assembly assumes of nominating the officers who are to have the issueing of the publick money independently of the Gov^r and which he tells them is contrary to his commission the only authority by which they sit & have a share in making Laws There may be such a clashing between these independent powers in cases where it is impossible the publick service can be perform'd without an entire Union that the necessary Service may suffer or it may be impossible for a Governour to do his Duty But to pass this over the assembly by their assuming this power to themselves (which a House of Commons of Great Britain does not claim) they appoint some of their own Members or near Relations or Special Friends Is it likely that an assembly will be so fond to call these men to an exact account as they would others appointed by the Gov^r & Council who have no relation to them. The present state of affairs shows it to be quite otherwise All the Rumours & Reports of Imbezlement by persons entrusted by the assembly has never been able at produce any enquiry into their Conduct tho' from what has been observ'd according to these rumours & reports these men intrusted by the assembly may have converted ten times the sums of the publick money to their use that it was possible for the Gov^r to do because all the money that he was intrusted with by this Province does not amount to the value of the imbezlements if there be any Credit on the rumours & reports above mentioned And as if these rumours & reports could not be hid from the Assembly they cannot be supposed to be ignorant of them & yet they have never made the least enquiry to find out the truth of them This observation therefore of their being willing to favour themselves or their relations or friends at the expence of their constituents cannot be said to be without foundation

All deviations from our constitution must either proceed from the ignorance of the Beauty of it or from a desire to destroy it But in all attempts of this kind the people of this Province have something more to fear

than independant states have Every indeavour to wrest the Kings Authority out of the hands of his Governour may draw on the Resentment not only of the King but likewise of a Brittish Parliament who allready seem to have become Jealous of the Dependance of their Colonies Witness a Bill not long since prepared for Parliament which allarmed all the Colonies

If this should be the case that the Parliament should think that we abuse the Privileges with which we are indulged & should think it necessary to put us under a more absolute authority We the common midling people are most likely to suffer These very men who by their grasping after undue power endanger our greatest privileges may escape the punishment while the Innocent suffer nay they may be gainers by it for they who are fondest of power are the most likely to become the tools of it in any shape & are most likely to freely offer themselves that they may be able to domineer over us

Besides what has been observ'd as the probable consequences of our publick dissensions & which some may fancy to be remote (I wish they be not nearer than many apprehend) there is another obvious ill consequence from our publick Dissentions which no man can tell how suddenly & unexpectedly we may feel the dismall & fatal effects by the advantages the enenmy may take of them I shall be far from supposing that any of the assembly hold the least correspondence with the Ennemy or have any inclination to favour them but at the same time it can hardly be doubted but that the Ennemy has spyes & Emmissaries among us The French never neglected so great an advantage at any price Such cunning emissaries as they constantly employ know how to sow the seeds of Dissention to blow up the coals of discontent & to set mens passions to work so 'as to make us serve their purposes without knowing that we do it & as effectually as we could had we been devoted to their Service. In the time of the Negro plott all men seem'd to be affray'd of such designs Now we seem to have lost all apprehensions of them Can it with any prudence be supposed

that a cunning & indefatigable ennemy can have laid aside the thought of such like artifices which may turn so exceedingly to his advantage No! they have only changed their measures They may have taken more secret & less suspected measures & against which we are less upon our guard & therefor more likely to produce the mischievous effects which they hope from them

We may see then my Dear Country men into what evident & great dangers we run our selves into by our Publick Dissentions Let me conjure you then by all means in our power to avoid the continuance of them & to use our best Indeavours to heal the Breach which threatens us with an Inundation of evils The Gov^r has given us one opportunity of doing it by a new Election of Representatives

Let us seriously consider with out partiality & affection whether it be most for the Interest of the Country to choose the same men again who have had their passions heated with the past Disputes & their spirits exasperated & inflamed with their resentments or others who have been cool observers of all the inconveniencies which have arisen from them Are not the calm judgements of these last most likely to fore see the Dangers we are running into heal our breaches & unite us heartily when Union & publick spirit must be allow'd by all never to have been more necessary than it is at this time

Some perhaps may say that these men have been fighting the Country's cause against the incroachments of a Governour and therefore ought not to be deserted but supported by their Country But if what has been before observ'd be well consider'd I suspect strongly it will appear that these violent opposers of a Governour have had their own private views more at heart than the good of the Country Consider seriously my Dear Countrymen whether in the late publick Dissentions Love of worldly power Profitable employments in the Disposing of the Country's money Foolish & mischievous contentions for litle paltry posts & Distinctions do not too evidently appear to have been the principle motives to all this publick

contention which has distracted this Country Does not Envy seem to have taken Possession of the hearts & to have destroy'd every generous noble publick spirited Sentiment or rather that Rage at the Disapointment of their litle schemes for power gnaws their Souls & fills them with such cordial hatred to their Apponents that every proposal however be refused to the Country & by the execution of which those whom they oppose may receive benefite or reputation as well as themselves is rejected with indignation. Till of late I could not believe the story of him who refused to pump in a sinking ship because one on board whom he hated would be saved by it as well as himself But such it seems is the unhappiness of human nature that our passions when violent are too hard for the united force of Reason Duty & Religion

The next argument which I have heard insisted on for the Reelection of our last representatives in the City especially is that they are all of them men of the best estates in the Country & consequently must be firmly attached to the Interest of the Country where there Estates ly To this I answer we have others of as good estates as they have & who have not had their Judgements byassed or their Passions exasperated by having been personally engaged in our wofull dissensions & therefor on this occasion they can pretend to no preference to others who have the same advantage to plead & are free from the objections which they are too evidently liable to

But I must further observe that riches are not allwise acquired by the honestest means nor are they allwise accompanied with the greatest integrity of mind with the most knowledge or with the most generous sentiments & publick spirit The Contrary to these has been so often observ'd in rich men that a celebrated Author has observ'd that the all wise God has often bestowed the Greatest riches on the most worthless of mortals to shew of how litle esteem riches are in his sight

Besides all this the rich have many opportunities

to screen themselves in publick Calamities which the midling rank of mankind can not have But especially rich Merchants. The means of speedy flight are ready in their hands and with some previous care to lodge money & effects in distant & secure places tho' they should loose much yet enough may be left them & to spare But most unhappily indeed circumstanced are the Midling people. The Farmers Shopkeepers & Tradesmen They cannot all fly with their families & if they could how could they Subsist

No they & what litle they have gained by hard labour & industry must bear the Brunt The weight of Contributions which may be exported by the Ennemy in case the ennemy should prevail as well as all the military hardships & dangers in defence of the Country (as it is of the present taxes among our selves) must be surely & heavily born by them

The rich while they abound in plenty pass their time in indulgeing their appetites & thereby enflame their Passions while they think of nothing but of Jollity & mirth have litle time to think of the Dangers there Country is in or of the Misfortunes of their Neighbours.

The midling rank of mankind in all Countries & in all ages have justly obtain'd the Character to be generally the most honest The rich men I am perswaded were they in distress would sooner trust their purses & the honour of their wives & daughters with their neighbours of the midling rank then with any of their rich jolly or swaggering companions And I am likewise fully perswaded that we may much more safely trust our Liberty & Property wth our neighbours of a midling rank than with those of the greatest riches who are thereby tempted to Lord it over their neighbours The estate of the midling rank are as dear to them as the Estates of the richest are to them They are no less fond & desirous of the well-fair & safety of their children And have as great a regard to the honour of their wives & Daughters Our richest men among us cannot pretend to any degreë of Knowledge in any kind of publick affairs more than several of

those of a midling rank evidently have or to more Resolution for their King & Country's Service than what those of a midling rank upon every proper occasion have discover'd At the same time they of a midling rank must allwise be more cautious of making an ill use of any good qualities they may be possess than some rich men who know the force of money & powerfull or rich relations to Screen them from publick enquires into their Conduct.

Now my Dear Countrymen never was there a time wherein we ought to be more careful & more disinterested in the choice of Representatives than now when this Country as I at first observ'd is exposed to the two most dangerous Ennemies that any Country can be exposed to The French & merciless Indians And when we may be likewise exposed to the resentment of our King & a Brittish Parliament by the Indiscreet & passionate behaviour of our late representatives in a manner which I am sorry to say may be thought disrespectfull of all Authority & of our dependance on great Brittain This I think highly concerns us to remove every Jealousy of this kind from our Superiors because we can have no defence against it but by removing it Which I doubt not may be easily don by the prudent behaviour of our next assembly For which purpose let us unite heartily & sincerely in the choice of such as we are perswaded know the Interest of our Country & are most resolute to pursue it without prejudice or view of party Interest or to the Satisfying their private views Passions or resentments

Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton

COLDENGHAM Jan^{ry} 5th 1746/7

S^r

I was at last lucky in the time that I left New York by my getting that night to my sons If I had not gon at the time I did probably I could not have got home to this

time by the roads being impassable by a flood which carried away the Bridges in many places. Tho' I be resolv'd to think as little as possible at this time on the disagreeable things which employ'd our thoughts at New York yet I have not been able to drive them entirely out of my head.—I suspect that one reason of the Publication made by the Council in the Post Boy of the 8th of Dec^r was to discredit the whole Narrative of your Excellys Treaty with the Indians as the success in that affair had disappointed those who intended to perplex affairs & thought that the bad Disposition of the Indians at that time was such as nothing in your power could remove & now they envy your Excell^y the honour which our Success in that Treaty has acquired. Your Excell^y knows the truth of that Paragraph & I dare say that not one of the Council (except the Mayor who was employ'd by your Excell^y in Matters w^{ch} required his stay at New York) can deny that he excused himself from going with you And none of them can singly deny (what ever they may do in a body) that both your Excell^y & I pressed them to go & that a greater number should at least attend & that both you & I urged several reasons for that purpose The Chief Justice positively refused M^r Murray excused himself in the Strongest terms from his Business in the Law M^r Horsmanden refuse'd unless he was paid not only for his going at that time but for his going formerly with the Governor to Albany All of them gave some excuse or other If the case be so (and your Excell^y certainly knows whether it be so or not) it may be left to any indifferent Judge to determine whether that Paragraph in the printed Treaty or the publication of the 8th of Dec^r deserve the appellation of an invidious misrepresentation of Facts. I mention this again to your Excell^y as I think it of some consequence to your affairs that the Credit of that Treaty be not lessen'd with the Kings Ministers. I think proper like wise to observe to your Excell^y that when your Excell^y in answer to the Resolves of the 8th of Nov^r said that as you differ'd from them in opinion you would referr the Matter to his Majesty & his Minis-

ters & punctually put in Execution what orders you shall receive on that head The assembly in their Replication resolv'd that who ever advised that answer are enemies to the constitution of this Government which seems to imply that by the Constitution of this Government the King has no authority to interpose in Differences between a Governor & an assembly of this Province & seems to be a claim of Independency

I am likewise of opinion that if the King shall think proper to declare his disallowance of the last Act for furnishing of Provisions to the Forces levied in this Province it cannot be of any ill consequence since it will have taken its effect as to the supply of the Forces before the repeal can reach this place & his Majesty's disapprobation may have a good effect on some peoples minds. I long for the pleasure of hearing that your Excell^y has some good news from England to make amends for the Chagrine you have met with & I heartily wish you & your Lady & family a Happy New Year with Success & much pleasure I am

S^r

Your Excellency^s
most obedient &
most humble servant
CADWALLADER COLDEN.

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD Jan^{ry} 12, 1746/7

S.^r

I Thank you for your's of Nov^r 19. All the Objections I had to your System were contained in a Letter I wrote you Sometime last Summer which your attendance on public affairs has not given you leave to Consider I doubt not of the justness of your Mathematical Reasonings. Nor do I doubt of your having advanced something extremely ingenious & I believe advantageous in physical

Speculation. Your making Resistance an Action, I thought very just. But my doubts were only with regard to the justness of your Metaphysical Thoughts, particularly in Ascribing Action to Matter, which I ever took to be a meer passive thing & that the same which is the principle of action must also be the principle of Conscious Design & wise contrivance, & therefore that the Actions which you ascribe to matter must be the Actions of Mind which alone can be the Agent to whom each species of matter can be no more than a mere passive tool of Instrum^t.

What you answer to the objections of our College of the Danger of Atheism are to me very Satisfactory, & when you have explained your self on the subject of Spirit, or immaterial intelligent Active Beings, whether God or Creatures, I trust our Thoughts will not much differ, however our Language may Something vary. What was objected was not meant at all under the notion of aspersion, but it was tho't something like Epicurus's Notion of self moving or self-exerting Atoms must be implied in your System—And the president Says, "he can't understand your Solution of Gravity: for two Balls in your *Æther*, will certainly be press'd as much by it on the Sides between them, as on the opposite Sides, unless it has some Laws of Motion that we have never yet been acquainted with."

You need not ask pardon for the Freedom of your Censure on Bp Berkley's Tract de Motu As I Said once in a Letter to you, *Nullius in verba* is my principle: I am for an intire Liberty in philosophizing. I have a few certain principles which to me are either Self-evident, or clearly desmonstrable, beyond which I both freely give & take all the Liberty that can be reasonable or desireable to any one, within the eternal Boundaries of Right & wrong. But your agreeing with the Bp in saying "you can have no Conception of Force without Action, or of what some call a dead force," makes me believe you really agree with him a good deal further than you apprehend you do. It is true I have a great, & I believe just value

for that Gentleman, but I trust a greater for Truth wherever it can be come at, & not so great, as to be in the least shock'd at any free Censure nor his Notions much less, So as to abate in the least Degree of Friendship for any Gentleman that Differs from him, Accordingly I remain
S^r

Y^e Sincere friend &

Very humble Servant

S JOHNSON

P. S.

I ask pardon for inclosing this Letter to M^r Watkins, having no other way to send it near him, & I humbly hope you will excuse it.

From Governor George Clinton

NEW YORK 14th Janry 1747

Sir

I have Yours of the 10 Inst, in answer to mine of the 2d w^{ch} I am glad You acknowledged, as I was apprehensive from your last letter to M^r Catherwood, it might have been still detain'd on this side of the River.

You have herewith an annonymous Letter thrown into M^r Catherwoods Lodgings, W^{ch} I think shou'd be answered, as You can easily Judge who the author is, I have also inclosed the purpert of the Articles in the agreement w^{ch} the Gen^l Court at Boston has amended; and I join in Opinion with You, that matter shou'd only be touched upon in Gen^l Terms. & seem warm for it

Your address will be printed next Monday w^{ch} comes apropos after this Letter, and altho' they have been extremely artfull to conceal it, 'til the evening after Hilton sailed, it does not in the least move me, but rather makes me more stedfast in my Resolutions.

I am glad that some change is like to happen in the Country, and whatever promises You make for that end, in relation to Militia Commissions shall be fullfilled. The

Election for this City comes on the 21st; but the late Candidates solicit like sturdy Beggars without any opposition.

There is an absolute necessity for the Commissary coming down immediately upon Account of the Jersey Troops, as several of the Officers belonging to them are going for England, Therefore I must desire you'll send him hither as soon as possible, and as he is the properest hand to be intrusted with my Speech, let him bring it with him, if You have prepared it, otherwise it must be referred to another safe opportunity. Notice must be taken in it to provide Rent for the C. Justices House to May next, to w^{ch} time I am engaged to pay it.

Brunx & Salisburys Petition has been presented to me in Council & the prayer thereof will be granted, provided it is not for the same Lands for W^{ch} M^r Henry Lane has petitioned for.

Hicks sent me word that he dispairs of succeeding in Queens County, from the Great Opposition made agt him on Acc^t of the Militia orders of w^{ch} great advantages is made among the Vulgar.

As I conceive there will be a necessity of calling the Assembly as soon as possible, I hope M^{rs} Coldens Health will permit you to attend, being sorry to hear she continues ill, as I am to tell You That Peter Delancey is much out of order

M^{rs} Clinton Miss Captⁿ & all friends joyn in Compliments to your family, Not one word of News yet from England Morris has sent me a Message he is determind to be a mediator, I am at a very great loss on many accounts not having either you or Allexander in Town, I don't doubt Rutherfurds Sincerity tho' I believe nothing is left untried by both My wife & perticular invited them on twelvt night with ye DeLanceys &c & I am almost blind of writing by Hilton & besides have had my old friend y^e Ague to pay me a visitt, y^e Night before Hilton Saild there was a meeting at y^e Jacobati House & he Sign'd something to send home. I am told both Council & Assembly joyned in it wheither ag^t me or you I cant

learn or Both, but one thing I can tell them I dont doubt but carry my point even to turn out y^e C. J. tho' he fancys himself so great a Man, I am just agoing to sup at Rutherfurds with some friends where you are sure your good health will be screwed Adieu with great Sincerity

Sir

Your very humble Ser^t

The Hon^{ble} CADW. COLDEN

G CLINTON

From John Rutherford

ALBANY 18th January 1746 7

Dear Sir

As Mr Mathews A Neighbour of yours tells me he sett's out to morrow I give him the trouble of this, & whatever you & I may think of Albany I assure you, 'twould surprize you how chearfully we pass our time, Coll^l Roberts is gone to New York but we've still Mess^{rs} Wrexall, Honeyman, Colhoun & Capt Campbel Comm^d of three Maryland Companys who is a very good sort of Man. Yours of the 10th Inst I was favoured with by Ensign McClaghry & I really think there has happened nothing at New York to give you the least uneasiness imaginable, for when A Man's Character is unjustly aspersed, 'tis the Slanderer only Suffers in the opinion of every Man whose opinion is worth regarding. I have letters of the 25th October from London & which is odd not a word of our Expedition, We have been amused likewise all winter with Mr Waldo & his forces comeing from New England but not a word of them, how matters will turn out God knows however I wish you were at New York as soon as you possibly can with any Convenience to yourself, as there's often no forseeing Changes, & as you've now put your hand to the plow you must keep it goeing, besides 'tis allways dangerous to do business by halves & allways safest to go thro with it with spirit. As to my own affairs

I continue of the same mind as we talked at parting 'tis certainly the best Scheme. I think His Excellency after all that's past now, can't refuse you a favour, tho' twill be allways doubtfull if you're not present when 'tis in his power. Mrs. Rutherford joins me heartily in our respects to Mrs Colden & all your good Family I am &c. &c.

JOHN RUTHERFURD

Cadwallader Colden to Archibald Kennedy

[Copy]

Dear S^r

Jan^{ry} 18th 1746/7

I have your kind favour of the 22d of last month which by reason of the rivers having become impassable did not come to me till the 15th of this month at night Since which time I have been so much hurried in drawing an answer to the representation so as that it may reach his Excellency before Shatfords Snow goes & to make fair copies that I am affray'd of some omissions or inaccuracies as well as from the Warmth it may be supposed that performance must give me & therefore I beg of you to wait immediately on his Excell^y & tell him that I desire you may have the perusal of it & to show it to our friend After which I submit to his Excellency & your opinions what use is to be made of it I am perswaded they will send it the Representation home from themselves with perhaps something more than they now discover & therefor I think we ought to be as much as possible upon our Guard for I am far from thinking that their view is only defensive

Please to tell M^r Alexander that I have receiv'd the letter from M^r Collinson with the printed letter from Paris I send this by express & I hope you will not omit writing to me by the return of it & by every opportunity We all join in our Compliments to you M^{rs} Kennedy & your family on the New Year

To MR. KENNEDY

Cadwallader Colden to the Hon^{ble} George Clarke Esq^r
[Copy]

COLDENHAM Jan^{ry} 18th 1746/7

S^r

I wrote to you before I left New York last month by one of the ships that were then going for England M^r Nicholls tells me that you have been pleas'd to remember me in a letter which he receiv'd from you since I came home & that you tell him that it was expected in England that Crown point was taken before that time. While I attended the Gov^r at Albany measures were concerted there for that purpose but the arrival of the Brest Squadron on the coast of Nova Scotia disconcerted all our Measures by reason the Gov^t of Boston thought it necessary to call in all their Forces for the Defence of that place & the Season of the Year has since that render'd Military enterprises impracticable but at the same time I must observe to you that the unhappy differences which have arisen in this Gov^t have disabled the Governor from making the preparations which he had order'd for facilitating any future attempt which may be thought proper & this will occasion both delay & much greater expence than otherwise could have happen'd had he not been disabled from pursueing the Scheme which he had laid & given orders for the execution hereof. No doubt you remember the Measures which his Excell^y was advised to take on his first arival in his Government & the consequences which you observ'd must ensue naturally from them He is now convinced of the justness of your Judgement but his being too late in discovering this has given him a vast deal of uneasiness & from thence truly have arisen all the Difficulties he has lately met with in his Majesty's service Under these difficulties he thought proper to apply to me for advice & tho' I foresaw the resentment it would draw from some spirits the present exigency of the publick affairs made me think it my Duty to give what assistance I was capable of And tho your

knowledge of men may prevent your being surprised were I to tell you the particulars which it is impossible for me to do within any compass of a letter & at this time when I am obliged to write in a hurry by the conveyance which carries this from my house I can only tell you that the resentment has gon to a greater lenth than I imagined it could. I believe it therefor probable that you may have occasion to give your sentiments of both men & things on this province & it is no litle comfort to me that I can with pleasure rely on both your Judgement & Justice I can add but very litle by any assurances I can give of the pleasure I shall receive by every opportunity of serving you in any thing that is in the power of

To the Hon^{ble}

GEORGE CLARKE Esq

Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton

[Copy]

Jan^{ry} 19th 1746/7

S^r

Your Excellency will perceive from the inclosed what trouble your goodness in communicating to me the representation of some of the Gentlemen of the Council has drawn upon you but as I believe your justice & natural compassion would lead you to defend & support any stranger attacked in the manner I am by these gentlemen yet I presume on something more in this case from your Excellency's Generosity Your Excellency knows how far it was from being by my own desire to medle more with the publick affairs at this time than I had formerly don during the preceeding part of your Excellency's administration but that I entirely undertook the part you was pleas'd to put upon me at your own earnest desire tho at the same time the sense I had of my Duty made me more easily comply when I saw your Excellency necessarily ingaged in a multiplicity of unexpected affairs of great consequence to his Majesty's service & so far

deprived of the assistance of others who's Duty it was to assist you that their indeavours seem'd to be calculated to perplex you in your administration & to make use of these difficulties to wrest the reigns of Government out of your hands & with this view did all in their power to expose your reputation & to lessen you in the eyes of the People Many instances of which cannot at this time have escaped your Excellency's Memory. Your Excellency may remember that I was apprehensive enough of the haughty & insolent spirit of some men but indeed I did not apprehend that Pride & resentment would have made some of them descend to attack innocence with the neglect or rather subversion of every thing that is accounted honourable among Gentlemen But upon recollection of what has passed in former times I am convinced that I had not then that precaution which I ought to have had. For these very same men (I mean the leaders) formerly attempted the same thing of supporting Malice & Falshood by meer Power & Numbers in opposition to all the evidence that truth could bring but the bad success of their attempts at that time & the mischiefs that had like to have ensued thereon I was in hopes would have deterr'd them from the like attempts for the future I am now convinced that what is in nature can never be driven out nor amended & of this more are affray'd than I alone & of the consequences that may arise from such Dispositions For this reason I must put your Excell^y in mind to guard against the unfair practices that may be used in England especially with any Solicitor that you shall employ because I believe money will not be wanting for such purposes. Your Excellency no doubt perceives what reason I have to wish that I had continued in the innocent amusements I enjoy in my retirement. I had just return'd to them when I had them again interrupted by the receipt of this extraordinary representation I shall endeavour as soon as possible to free my thoughts from this disagreeable subject & return to my usual conversation with men whose indeavours all their life was to discover & estab-

lish truth In the mean while I shall rely on your Excellency's Protection & favour so far as I am innocent & you think I deserve. I hope your Excell^y before this has had the pleasure of seeing your son in good health & of being easy in the Company of Gentlemen that will not disturb your pleasure by Disagreeable Subjects as I am now forced to do Nothing will give me more pleasure than to hear that your past pains are made up by variety of uninterrupted pleasures & I hope your Excell^y will do me the honour to allow me to partake with you in them by giving some account of the good news you shall receive as I have in some measure shared with you in the Sha-green that ill nature has endeavour'd to throw liberally upon you

My wife joins with me in returning our humble thanks to your Excellency to your Lady for your kind wishes on this season and all my Children join with us in our most hearty wishes that this may prove a happy year to your Excell^y your Lady & all your family & that you may all have the Pleasure of many such

I send this by express that if possible it may reach your Excellency's hands before Shatfords snow sails & I send two copies of the answer to the reputation to save the trouble of having it copied if your Excellency shall think proper to make further use of it I beg of your Excellency to let me know by the return of the express that you have received this safe I am

Cadwallader Colden to Gov. George Clinton

[Copy]

Jan^{ry} 19th 1746/7

My it please your Excellency

I heartily thank your Excellency, for doing me the Justice to send me a Copy of a Representation made to your Excellency, by some of the Members of his Majesties Council for this Province, dated the 16th of last Month, which, by reason of the severity of the season which had

rendered the River impassable and the Distance of my House from New York, did not come to my hands till the fifteenth of this month at night.

I am sorry that any thing personally relating to me should be the occasion of so much trouble to you, but as all the matters, which are the subject of that representation, are better known to your Excellency than to any other person, even many of them better known to you than it is possible they can be to the Gentlemen themselves who make the Representation, I shall chearfully submit to your Judgement, after that I have brought back to your Remembrance some circumstances of Facts mentioned in that Representation, which these Gentlemen think proper to pass over, especially as to that paragraph in the printed Narrative of your Excellency's Treaty with the Indians at Albany, which they censure.

It is true, as these Gentlemen say, that your Excellency in Council desired to know what number of the Gentlemen of the Council would attend you to Albany, and who would. But these Gentlemen omit two material circumstances; One is that I was not present at that time in Council, being then gon out of town to visit my Daughter in the Country; The other is, that they named me as a proper person to attend your Excellency on this occasion. If I should repeat the reasons which I was told they give for nameing of me for this service, it would become one of the *observable little instances of Vanity calculated principally with a view to raise a Character* with which these Gentlemen charge me, and therefor I shall leave it to them to tell what the reason were for naming me rather than another: But I must observe, that it could not be true that I refused to go, when I was not present, and could not know that I was named. It is true, that afterwards in conervation among ourselves (not in Council) I did object to it as a particular hardship on me to be singled out (for as to M^r Livingston his office as Secretary for Indians affairs made it his Duty to attend) and I think it ungenerous in them to repeat any casual words which I used in Conversation

at that time. I am sure should I repeat what some of them said at the same time I could not escape blame.

The truth of the matter is this, that as I was not present in Council when your Excellency desired to know who would attend you to Albany, I cannot of my own knowledge say what passed that day in Council: but your Excellency afterwards, when you desired me to attend you to Albany, told me that the others (except Mr Livingston) had declined that service: and for the truth of this I must appeal to your Excellency.

However Sir it is confessed in their own Representation, that they all desired to be excused (except Mr Cortlandt who was absent as well as myself) and that I likewise afterwards desired to be excused, or rather as they express it that I refused to go, and they desired to be excused from going: but that I afterwards was prevailed on to go (for I did go) and they insisted on their excuse, for they did not go. This is the state of the Question confessed on all sides and I must leave to your Excellency to determine which of us *declined going*.

Your Excellency knows, that the printed Narrative of your Excellency's Treaty was published several Weeks before the time that the Council were pleased to censure this Paragraph mentioned in their Representation. From the time it was published till that day I was frequently in conversation with these Gentlemen, and tho, I believe none of them doubted of my being privy to that publication, yet none of them at any time took notice to me of any injury that they thought was done to them by it till that day! When coming into Council while the Council met in their Legislative Capacity (at which time your Excellency is not present) I was surprised to see all the Gentlemen of the Council met; for before that time several of them seldom attended, as will appear by the minutes of Council, and adjournments were frequently made for want of a sufficient number. Mr Chief Justice took the Printed Narrative out of his Pocket, and spoke to the purpose as set forth in the Censure printed in the New York Post Boy of the 8th of Dec^r. Mr Horsmanden and

Mr Murray made set Speeches. As these were all Lawyers and prepared, and the whole a Surprise upon me, I was not ready to make such proper answers as perhaps I should otherways have done. But I observed, that I thought it would be more proper to inquire into this matter in the Privy Council, when your Excellency must be present, than now when we are met by ourselves. To which the Cheif Justice answered something, as to the Power of the House of Lords, with respect to Privy Counsellors at the same time Members of their house, which as I did not understand how he applied it to the present case I cannot repeat. But my reason for saying this enquiry was more proper for the Privy Council was, That in the present case we are all parties, but in the Privy Council your Excellency could judge between us: Your Excellency from your own knowledge could judge of the Truth or Falsity of it, as you are indifferent between us. I likewise told them, that if they thought that there was anything in that Paragraph, that by Mistake or unguarded expression, threw any unjust Reflection on the Council, I would join freely with them in doing justice to every one, if the proper steps were taken for that purpose: but I did neither confess nor acknowledge in the manner set forth in that publication, and that minute was drawn up and published without being communicated to me. I think it not fair to repeat in so solemn a manner as that of a Representation from the Council, any extempore and unpremeditated expressions, that any person may use without giving him an opportunity to explain them or excuse them; yet, from their example, I think I may on this occasion be allowed to tel your excellency, that the Cheif Justice in this Debate said, That some of the Council of this Province, and named Mr Phillipse, had been removed from the Council by a false representation made of his being a Jacobite. This Gentleman was removed in the first year of Mr Burnets Administration, and tho I then lived in this Province, and have been in it ever since, this is the first time I ever heard of this reason for that Gentlemans

removal. I do not know what Representation Mr Burnet made to the King, which occasioned that Gentleman removal; but, I have heard, and I believe it to be true, that it was for a misdemeanor of which proof was made, and which then was not doubted to be true, and which perhaps can at this time be proved to be true, it was known to so many persons at that time: and I believe the truth of what I now say may appear from Papers in the Office of the Lords Commissioners for trade, or in the Secretary of States Office. How the Cheif Justice came to make the assertion he then made I know not, but if I be allowed to follow these Gentlemens example, in forming conjectures of other peopels intentions, it might have been with intention to raise a jealousy among the Members of his Majesties Council, of some such base design at this time: and it is well known, that insinuations of this kind will influence weak minds, that are not capable of judging of the merits of the Matter in debate, and may prejudice those who are more capable. What other motive could induce the Cheif Justice to speak in this manner at this time, I must confess that I cannot imagine, and I must leave it to your Excellency to judge, whether this Surmise that I make be with or without Sufficient ground. I think it the more necessary to take notice of this in the Cheif Justice, because I believe, that this and such like false suggestions have been the principal means, by which Many, in both the Council and Assembly, have been latly prevailed upon on several occasions. In the last place I must observe to your Excellency, that the method, which these Gentlemen have taken to censure this Paragraph, cannot be justified by any precedents in Parliament (unless it were in the worst of times when there was a settled design to distroy the Constitution of Government) thus to apply to the People by publication, without any address or application to your Excellency, or to any other superior Authority, who have a right to judge in matters of this kind: and after they had thus endeavoured to prejudice the minds of the People then to apply

to your Excellency. Such Methods are at all times (except where open resistance becomes necessary) lookt on as dangerous to and destructive of good Government, and are less excuseable in those employed in the Administration then in others.

I am truly Surprised with the next charge against me, in the representation made by these Gentlemen, that I advised your Excellency not to lay the Proceedings of Council at Albany before the Council at New York, according to your Excellencys Declaration. What your Excellency's Declaration was I know not, being absent, but I must appeal to your Excellency whither I ever at any time give such advice as these Gentlemen insinuate, or have given the least ground for this assertion; neither can I imagine to what purpose such advice could be given, since these minutes were afterwards, as I believe, lodged in the Secretarys office as usual.

While your Excellency was at Albany you had various affairs, and you was oblided to employ your Secretary in much writing, who was deprived of the assistance of a Clerk, whome your Excellency carried to Albany for the purpose, by the Clerks being taken sick and returning to New York. For this reason your Secretary had not time to fill up the Minutes with the Copies of some papers, which were referred to in them, but left blanks for their being inserted afterwards. These Papers were in your Excellency's Custody. You told me after my return to New York, that, in the hurry of puting up your papers when you left Albany, you had misplaced one material paper which was to be inserted in the Minutes, and that you had been searching for it, but could not find it: and I knew no other reason for the delay in depositing the Minutes of Council at Albany in the Secretarys office but this. Your Excellency had been absent about three Months from your family, The Assembly was to meet in a few days after your return, and you had all the matters to prepare which were to be laid before them, Before your Excellency could do this you was taken dangerously ill, and by these means you could not look over

the numerous papers you had brought with you from Albany, in quest of that paper which was misplaced; but as I informed your Excellency that the Gentlemen of the Council intertained some Jealousy of the reason why the papers were not lodged in the Secretarys office, your Excellency was prevailed on, before you was well recovered, to search for that paper; and as soon as it was found, so far as I know, all the papers were deposited in the Secretarys Office.

I come now to a very memorable transaction of a Committee of Council in which I own I differed much in opinion from the other Gentlemen of the Council, which occasioned some debate between them and me: but I think it an unusual hardship put upon me, by the Representation of these Gentlemen, to be put to answer for extempore words, used in the heat of debate, when the words were not taken down in writing, and excepted to at the time; but at two Months time afterwards they are excepted to, when it may be impossible for me to recollect the occasion of my speaking them: and I must charge this method of proceeding as both unusuall and unfair, and tho I be at present under a very great disadvantage, by my being in the Country here by myself, without any assistance to recollect things past so long since, now above 3 months, and to answer the studied and premeditated charge of two Judges and a noted Attorney, assisted with the memories of others, who perhaps do not understand for what purpose their memories are made use of, I trust to the force of truth, and to your Excellencys candour in judgeing. For this purpose I must give your Excellency an account of several facts, which these Gentlemen have thought fit to omit, I even perswade myself that when your Excellency observes, at what pains these Gentlemen are to recollect every casual word that I have any time Spoke, and the artificial turns given to my words, that you will think they are at some loss to find real causes of complaint against me, and this observation, so obvious thro' the whole of their charge, gives me a good deal of confidence in making my defence.

But to return to matters of fact. The Committee of Council (for a Council of state when your Excellency is not present I do not understand) taking into consideration your Excellency's reference to them for advice (more properly than message) since your indisposition rendered you incapable of being present. It was objected, that they could not give an opinion, without previously knowing what orders your Excellency had given to Coll: Roberts the commanding Officer of the New levied forces in this Province. To this I answered, that I did not know; that we had the right to demand a particular account of your Excellency's orders to the Army, and of every Military interprise that your Excellency should think proper to undertake: and from the nature of things it is impossible, and would be highly inconvenient that every enterprise of the Army should be first debated in a Council of State, by men who have no pretensions to Military knowledge, at a 100 or 200 miles distance from the Army: at least these were my sentiments at that time, and these Gentⁿ give no reason to make me alter my opinion. I said that whatever the orders were, tho never so necessary, it was plain from his Excellency's references and Coll: Roberts letter; they could not be executed while the Commissioners withheld the provisions. But as they insisted, that the orders to Coll: Roberts must be previously known, and that they could not give an opinion without knowing these orders, I had nothing more to say, than to desire them to put this down as a reason why they could not give an opinion. I do not remember anything as to the minutes of Council, that their not being communicated came into debate, but as it is usual for men, who design to perplex to bring in Matters foreign to the debate, it is not improbable that something of that kind might then be talkt of, tho at present I do not remember it. And as it had been insisted on that the Gentlemen of the Council, who attended your Excellency at Albany, were only a Committee of Council, probably I have denied it: for in the case your Excellency could have no advice of Council,

till the opinion of this Committee of approved of in Council, Upon this Supposition, a Majority of the Members of Council may refuse at any time to attend your Excellency, and set up an independent Authority, and say, that your Excellency and the Members who attend you have no right to proceed on any business, but what is referred to your Excellency by the Majority. And I must continue in this opinion, while I think the other opinion directly contrary to our Constitution, and till they give me reason to alter it which as yet they have not attempted. But however this be, it appears by their own representation, that what they thought your Excellency ought to have communicated to them, and was properly under debate, was your Excellencys orders to Coll Roberts. I remember very well that the Question mentioned in the Representation, respecting these orders, were askt me, and that they were askt by Mr Murray and the Questions were put by him personally to me, and his words were not directed to the Chairman, and in that case, I was in the right to say I would not answer his Questions, even tho his Questions had been pertinent, and otherwise ought to have been answered, which in this case I am humbly of opinion they were not. For, as by the Constitution of this Govrnment in case of accidents, the command of these forces might devolve on me, your Excellency may have very cogent reasons to communicate to me, matters relating to the Army, which you may not think proper to communicate to others: but even supposing the case otherwise, and that your Excellency thought proper to communicate any thing to me, which you did not think proper to communicate to the others, it was certainly my Duty to keep the Secret; and if they think they have a right to know it, they ought to demand it of your Excellency, which was all that I insisted on. After the Committee of the Council had gon through all the heads of their report, except the third Paragraph, Mr Cheif Justice, who happened to set next me, entered into conversation with me, while the Clerk was taking doun the heads agreed on for a report about the Winter

Camp, an expression in your Excellency's Speech to the Assembly. On this I said, he could form no Judgement of it till he was informed of the nature of that Camp, and the purpose for which it was designed: and after a few words the conversation ceased, but it is probable the others overheard what passed between the Chief Justice and me. After this the Clerk read over the heads which, he had taken down, and it was ordered that M^r Horsmanden, the Chairman of the Committee, should draw up the report in form from these heads, and send his report next day to all the Members present, and if they severally aproved of it to sign it, and deliver it to your Excellency. Now in the heads read over by the Clerk, there was not one word relating to any thing in the s^d 3^d Paragraph and when the Clerk brought the report to me next day for my perusal I objected to that third paragraph as no part of the heads agreed to by the Committee for their report, to which he answered, *I told M^r Horsmanden that I believed you would object to that part*, and then I bid him carry it back to M^r Horsmanden, and tell him that I object to that part as no part agreed to by the Committee, and I expected that M^r Horsmanden, as Chairman would have desired the Committee to meet again to put the Question out of Dispute, but he without calling the Committee signed the report and delivered it to your Excellency. Your Excellency may remember, that when this report was read in Council, I objected to this Paragraph for the reasons I have already set forth, and appealed to the Clerk for the truth, who I suppose had the heads agreed to then to produce in evidence of what I asserted. But the Gentlemen then present thought proper to rise up one after another; and positively to assert that this Paragraph was agreed to in the Committee, and said that the Clerk was not to be heard in Contradiction to them, But notwithstanding of this, I positively affirm the Fact to be as I have related it. And I shall add one reason more for confirming it, That as in your Excellency's written reference and in Coll: Roberts his letters, and in any paper re-

ferred to that Committee, there was not one word of a Winter Camp, or of the disposition intended to be made of the Forces, that Paragraph could not in any propriety be made a part of the Report, The dispute here related only to the truth of a Matter of Fact, and justice requires Truth to be sacred in all public enquiries, and therefore, when the publick Character of the person concerned in this debate is considered, it very much concerns his Majesties justice, and the safety of every man in this province, that people do not put their Confidence only in power and number, without any regard to truth, and I earnestly desire that this matter may be strictly enquired into, for I doubt not before impartial judges, the force of truth in this case will be greater than that of power or numbers.

Your Excellency in answer to that part of the report, which reflected on your Excellency's not communicating to them the Transactions at Albany, took notice, that the Gentlemen of the Council at New York had taken upon themselves the administration both civil and military, that tho you had been so long returned to this place, they had made no report to you of their proceedings, and that two days after they knew you was returned, the Officers of the Militia had been served with their orders, and which had never been communicated to you. On which you made some observations, and directed that what you then said should be entered on the minutes. On which some of the Gentlemen acknowledged their error, and prayed that your Excellency would not order any entry to be made. On which I moved that the Council would likewise take back their report, which had given occasion to those remarks on their conduct made by your Excellency which being agreed to your Excellency then told them how desirous you was to have a good understanding with them, and that you would at all times be pleased with their giving their advice freely either jointly as a Council or seperately as they should think best. Upon which I was in hopes all things would have been restored to a harmony but how differently things

turned out is too well known to your Excellency for to make it necessary for me to repeat But I do not remember, and I positively deny, that I made any promise that any Papers of any kind should be laid before the Committee, neither can I imagine what could induce me to make such promise, if I had, since no public papers were in my hands, nor did I at any time concern myself as to what papers your Excellency should think proper to lay before the Council, neither do I at this time know, what papers your Excellency has put into the Secretary's office.

As to your Excellency's Speech, Messages and Prorogation of the Gen^l Assembly, I shall only say, that your Excellency told me that you had advised with the Chief Justice and the Speaker of the Assembly, both as to the Speech it self, and as to the manner of sending it by reason of your indisposition, and I must leave it to your Excellency to say what advice they give you. I have been for a longer time in the Council than any in it, I do not remember that any Governor advised with the Council as to his Speech and Messages or as to Prorogations. This is a part of the Prorogative lodged with the Governor solely and I believe these Gentlemen can give no instances to the Contrary, except very lately, when designs, as I apprehend, were on foot prejudicial to the Constitution as established by his Majesties Commission to the Governors in Chief of this Province.

As to the reason why your Excellency did not communicate to the Council the Minutes of the Commissioners for Indian affairs, giving an account of Hendrick the Indians's transactions in Canada, I can truly say, I know as little of this matter as any of them can pretend to, and I believe much less than some of them: because they know them to be of importance, which I do not. But I am at no loss to discover the reason why your Excellency could not take that affair under your consideration at that time. Your Excellency had drawn Bills for very large Sums, for engaging the friendship of the Indians, and for defraying the expences of the expe-

dition intended against Canada, which the Assembly of this Province had refused to undertake, You was then making up your Accounts, and writing your letters, when the Ships for England were to Sail in a few days, And this is so obvious and well known that these Gentlemen may be ashamed to say they are at a loss to discover it and at the same time it too evidently shows how desirous they are to throw blame on me

May it please your Excellency

It is impossible for me to give any answer to the general allegations made by these Gentlemen, without the least proof, that all the differences which have lately happened have been occasioned by my ill advice, and that there was a perfect harmony between your Excellency the Council and the Assembly till that time, which they imagine that I intermeddled in the publick affairs. I must submit to your Excellency's own knowledge as to this & I make no doubt your Excellency will at least give me this testimony, that I was very sensible of the difficulties that would arise in consequences of the measures which your Excellency enclined to follow, and that I took upon me to give no advice but what was at your Excellencys repeated desire, in such manner as I could not refuse consistently with my Duty. Your Excellency can best tell, whether I had any hand, or was so much as privy to the real cause of all the differences, which have lately happened in this province, Whether every remarkable differences had not arisen before I came to town, while I was as these Gentlemen say attending my ordinary Domestick affairs in the Country, Whether before that time a Stop was not put to the zeal which the Assembly had expressed for contributing liberally towards the Expences of the Expedition. Your Excellency can best tell (since these Gentlemen own that I was then only minding my privit affairs) Who and what measures were the principal occasions of this, and of several other great difficulties your Excellency was unexpectedly thrown into in the publick administration of affairs, when you was engaged in matters of the greatest importance, and

that these things had happened before your Excellency required my attendance in Council, and when it is not presumed I had any share in them. I have only given my assistance to extricate your Excellency from the difficulties, which were laid in your way, in order to perplex the publick affairs, and my having had some success in this, and preventing the Slur which was designed to be thrown on your Excellencys reputation, I am convinced, you are well satisfied is the real cause of all the resentment which has fallen upon me.

And on this occasion I hope your Excellency will pardon me, if I remind you of what you seemed lately very sensible, that all the difficulties you have met with are owing to the advice your Excellency received, at your first coming to this place, by which you give up those powers in Government, by which former Governors preserved the Authority and Dignity of their office, and thereby give some designing men the hopes of making your Excellency, and all future Governors meer dependents on a Faction. Your Excellency is now sensible how dangerous these concessions have proved to his Majesties Authority in the hands of his Governors, and may hereafter prove to the dependency of this Province on the Crown, and it is truely the struggle for power in a Faction that is the real cause of all the uneasiness which has happend to your Excellency and of this the generality of the People in this Province are truely sensible. Your Excellency will perceive from some things, which I have been obliged on this occasion to write in my own defence, that I have been so far from giving your Excellency an ill impression of these Gentlemen, that I have concealed things from you that might greatly have served for that purpose had it been my design.

I shall not attempt to give any return to the wit, with which that performance is imbellished because the wit only serves to shew the true disposition of mind and the rancour with which the Author writes: neither do I envy him, this peculiarity, by which he allwise distinguishes and makes himself known, in putting the worst and most

unnatural construction on words that it is possible they can bear.

On the whole I think I may be allowed to say, that it is an invidious Misrepresentation of Facts, and however the Author may have endeavoured to cover his Envy it at last breaks openly forth in the last Paragraph save one In the following words.

Mr Colden has told the world in print of his being the next person to your Excellency in the Administration. We shall not make any reflections on this circumstance, But leave your Excellency to consider, Whether it may not be his Interest to embroil your Excellencys affairs, and Distract your Administration, the consequence of which may be his getting the Reins of Government into his own hands, and here perhaps your Excellency may find that which was intended to be a reflection on others: One of those artfull and designing Men who have privit views.

What Mr Colden, as they say, has told the world in print, I suppose must referr, to page 9th of your Excellency's Treaty with the Indians, when last at Albany, which in the printed account thereof is said to be introduced as follows

His Excellency our Governor having been taken ill, and as yet not so well recovered as that he can safely come broad, has ordered me (being the next person to him in the Administration) to speak to you in his name, which I shall do in the same words which he designed to have spoke had he not been prevented by sickness.

Tho I cannot clear myself from my share of vanity, a Weed which is observed to grow luxuriantly in an American soil, yet any one with a moderate share of condour would put a favourable construction on Mr Colden telling the Indians on the occasion of his speaking to them in a publick Treaty, that he was the next person to the Governor in the Administration, as it shewed his Excellency's respect to the Indians, and likewise give the greater Credit to what was said. It seemed reasonable to tell the Indians why your Excellency had

made choice of Mr. Colden, rather than an other, & I must leave it to this Author of Wit and Penetration to give a better reason for the choice, because I cannot give any other; and I believe it was the true reason. Why this come to be printed I can give no other reason, but things were to be told truly as they were, and if it be considered, that every man in this Province knew that I am the first in the Council, or the next in the Administration as certainly before this publication as afterwards, I could not have my vanity much encreased by it. But what follows in the Paragraph appears too openly invidious, when in the whole Representation they have not been able to give one instance of my stirring up Dissensions and Differences among the Branches of the Legislature to lay so heavy a charge without one proof is something very extraordinary in men of their Publick Character, and then likewise to insinuate to your Excellency, that I design to Supplant you, without the least colour to support it, I know not how anything like this could be defended among Gentlemen in common conversation, much less in so solemn a representation, wherein they value themselves for their moderation in their censure of me.

For, as to all the instances given in this Representation, they only relate to differences between these Gentlemen and myself, and no wise concern your Excellency and the other Branches of the Legislature. Have I not then much reason from this representation to charge some of them, with a design to Supplant me, in any expectation I may have of the Administration devolving into my hands after 29 years Service in his Majesties Council here.

I have one comfort under all these heavy charges, that as your Excellency knows well all the publick Transactions, and knows better than any other what advice I have presumed at any time to give you, your Excellency can be a true and indisputable Witness between these Gentlemen and me. And as I have reason to apprehend, that tho this representation was made to

your Excellency, it is designed to take effect (if possible) in some other place, where the truth of Facts cannot be so well known, and where they hope their number will be reckoned as a number of Witnesses in evidence of the truth I must appeal to your Excellency in my own vindication, and I doubt not you will do the justice of telling the truth. That this is the view of these Gentlemen in their representation, I think is evident from the time in which they have chosen to make it. I was above two Months at New York, during which time I was as they say sowing Dissention between your Excellency and the other Branches of the Legislature, I was misleading your Excellency with design to Supplant you, I stayed ten days after the Prorogation of the Assembly, yet in all that time they did not warn your Excellency against these, as they pretend, mischeivous designs; but chose to give in their representation, after I was gon into the Country at above Sixty miles from New York, and when all communication was cut off between my house and the Town.

But notwithstanding of all this, the confidence I have in the Penetration of his Majesties Ministers, if they can have time only to read over the publick transactions since the 6th of June, the time since which they say that your Excellency received advice from me, What your Excellency has don for his Majesties service since that time, Your Excellency's Speech & Message, the Representations of Assembly and of these Members of Council, and the Resolves of Assembly in answer to your Messages I am persuaded no doubt can remain with them from whence all these publick differences arise. A Scene will open to them not only of opressing the Innocent by meer power and number, but likewise of blasting the Reputation of his Majesties Servents, in the highest Station in this Province in the faithfull performance of their Duty. And I hope his Majesties Ministers will think it incumbent on them, to give an effectual check to such designs of a Faction, as have a natural Tendency to distroy the publick safety and security of the Province, and the private

safety of every person in it, and I will take the liberty to say, that if something be not at this time don to give the power of this Faction a check, few if any in this Province will after this run the hazard of giving them any opposition.

On this occasion I think it my duty to take notice to your Excellency of several scandalous papers, published by the publick Printer, who is in the pay of this Government, reflecting in such manner on your Excellency's Administration, that Strangers may be apt to imagine, that the course of the law is at present shut up, and the Province is subject to Military Law and execution, than which nothing can be more false and nothing more effectual to alienate the minds of the People from their Duty. I believe it will be difficult to assign any reason for this Printer depending on the Government, thus daring to publish in open defiance of the Administration, but the confidence he has in the power of a Faction. Pleas to see the New York weekly Post Boy published since I left the town of the 15th and 29th of Dec^r for proof of what I now say

Being informed that the last Vissel, which is to go in this Season for England is ready to sail about this time, I am oblidg^d to hurry myself in makeing this answer; that if possible it may reach your Excellency's hands before that Vissel sail. And therefore I must beg of your Excellency to excuse any inaccuracy, or other defect, which may appear in it, and which perhaps I might have avoided, had more time been allowed me. With confidence therefore in your Excellency's Candour and Justice, this my Defence is humbly submitted to your Excellency's judgement by

From Governor George Clinton

Dear Sir

NEW YORK 22 Jan^r 1746/7

I had y^e favour of yours this Evining together wth your answer to y^e Council Representation, which I shall

send home by Capt^a Hilton who is a going directly away in a ship to Belfast Catherwood has been gone this 22 days & am in hopes he is by this time pritty nigh England, by whome I have given all caution I could to Guard against unfair practices, and as to their representation it will fling them on their own backs, I must refer you to M^r Kenedy for news having been very much out of order ever since I think you left us, & don't believe I have shown out but once Since.

I can only assure you as you entered vollontarly with me & took my part against a Haughty Insolent sett of people you may be assur'd I will niver drop you, which I have given good proofs of by my letter I have sent home for your Interest & some of y^e Friends, I have just received some letters from Coll^l Johnson but my head ackes so much I am not able to read them,

Our Compliments wait on you & your family being very Sencerely

D^r Sir

Your faithfull

& Obedient Servant

GEO CLINTON

From Archibald Kennedy

Jan^y 23^d 1746/7

Dear Sir

I received yours of the 28th, and did as you bid me, Your answer was thought a little too warm, and that about the Gover^s giving up too much of his power fitter for a private advice, than to appear in publick. However as there was an opportunity of sending it this day By Capt Hilton bound to London via Belfast I was of opinion it shoud goe to M^r Catherwood but not to goe out of his hands and only to use such extracts as may be thought necessary, you will I believe have time enough by Shatford to soften things, and leave that part out,

the Governour is not very well and I believe has not read it, the ship being to sail at 2 o'clock. We have no manner of newes besides that the Bostoneers seem to press the expedition against Crown point, which is absolutely impracticable this winter. I hope we shall see the 3^d of March. In the mean time we wish you and yours all happiness being sincerely Dear Sir

very much Yours

ARCH^d KENNEDY

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN

Esq^r

at Coldingham.

From Archibald Kennedy

9th Feb: 1746/7

Dear Sir

I had your favour of the 27th of Jan^{ry}. I am glad we hitt upon the proper use of your answer, as the Governour never read it, being at that time much out of order, and Hilton just upon goeing I should think a copy for him to make what use he pleased of it (by Shatford it cannot goe, for he will certainly sail in a day or two) would not be amiss. We have had but one Council I think since you left us, the subject at least of our meetings has only been about sending off the french prisoners and attacking Crown point, which we have reported, according to our Opinion, impracticable this winter, at one of those committees M^r Hⁿ made a discovery of which he was not a little fond, vizt. In the minutes it was incerted.

This day His Excellency laid before the Council the transactions at albany read, and ordered to be entered upon the Minutes and a few days agoe after makeing our report M^r M^y moved for a committee to enquire upon oath how that minut came there, they imagine I suppose, it was either you, or the Gover ordered it. parturiunt montes. You see the spirit still subsists, But as you

have put your hand to the plough give me leave to add two or three more latin words tu ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito. I hope we shall see some time before the assembly Sitts. M^r Shirley it is said is agoeing home. M^{rs} Murray very sick from cold catched at an assembly where Miss and M^r Clinton mett with indifferent treatment. Upon which account, I hear Cap^t Scot is out at court, His affair with Miss Montgomerie amuses the young folks, and further this—saith not, only I am to assure you we are with truth D^r Doctor

Yours

ARCH^d KENNEDY.

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
of Coldingham

From Governor George Clinton

Sir

I have been so hurried about Crown point, furnishing ye Troops at Albany, and my dispatch by a vessell to England, y^t I really had not time to answer y^e favour of yours by a person y^t came from your parts, as the time draws nigh for business your friends would be glad to see you In town perticularly myself & should be glad you would come as soon as you can conveniently, standing much in need of y^r assistance, I have had several hints given me how easie things might go if I did so & so, but I have rejected it with disdain, but I was always brought up in the Principill of Honour & you may depend on it Sir I niver promiss but I keep my word, I hope M^{rs} Colden will excuse my drawing you from her, but Necessity has no Law M^{rs} Clinton & I joyn In compliments to self & family & I beg you will beleive me to be with great Sincerity Sir

Your faithfull friend
& Servant

G CLINTON

New York 20th Feb^{ry}
1746/7

Cadwallader Colden to Governor George Clinton
[Copy]

Feb^{ry} 23^d 1746/7

S^r

I am sorry that the season at this time renders it impracticable to travel either by land or Water otherwise I should have shown what regard I have to your Excellency's Commands by the most speedy obedience All the Brooks have been so high by the last thaw when there was a great quantity of snow upon the Ground that the Bridges in most places are carried away & at the same time the hollowness of the Ground from the frost makes travelling on horseback exceedingly dangerous till the ground Settles. The river is not as yet passable from the ice But both these obstructions I hope will soon be removed & I expect it will be as soon practicable to go by Water as by land. So that I hope in ten days or a fortnights time of doing my Duty at New York.

I am of Opinion that it may be advisable to prorogue the Assembly further for a fortnight because I believe business will go heavily till we have some news relating to this province affairs from England neither can a sufficient number be expected to meet at this time & if letters be sent to the several counties requiring the Representatives to meet punctually at the day to which your Excell^y shall think proper neither to prorogue the Assembly I believe they will be as soon able to go upon Business as by their meeting at the time to which the Assembly is at present prorogued But this opinion is only founded upon what knowledge I have of the present state of affairs & from an opinion that there is no use for the meeting of the assembly but to make further supply of provisions for the new levies after the first of May If your Excell^y have other reasons for meeting them early I can give no opinion but I doubt not of your Excellencys forming a proper Judgement if you place no confidence where you have all the reason in the world not to do it

They have a very erroneous opinion of your Excellency's understanding who think they can perswade you to trust them who have abused your confidence in the most gross manner & after the strongest obligations that could be laid on men & even to condescend to such an abject confidence in those people as to put it out of your own power afterwards to receive in any cause assistance from any other person. The attempt to perswade your Excellency to this can only proceed from the weakness of their Judgement accompanied with an excessive vanity in their opinion of themselves.

Your Excellency need not doubt of my entire confidence in your Honour I have good reason for such confidence since I know not that upon any occasion you have given ground to any person to suspect it Your errors have proceeded from an opinion that others were acted by the same principle of Honour The reputation of your noble family the most signal reputation of your Brother in point of Honour & your Conversation all your life till you came to this Country with men of honour give the strongest assurances that can be given I desire your Excellency's favour no longer than you perceive that I act with the utmost sincerity & truth if at any time I mistake by an error in my Judgement I hope for your Excellency's pardon when I readily acknowledge it & do all in my power to rectify the mistake. My wife I believe cannot avoid intertaining some uneasiness at my leaving my family so early in the spring after so long an absence last Summer & fall but the reason of it I hope will make her submit contentedly She and all of my family desire to have their Duty to your Excellency & your Lady acceptable & we beg your Excellency to make our Compliments to Captⁿ Clinton & Miss Clinton. I shall wait on your Excellency as soon as travelling to New York becomes practicable I am

To His Excellency &c

Your Excellency's

From John Bartram

March y^e 6th 1746/7

Dear & esteemed Friend Colden

I have severall times read thy agreeable letter of January y^e 27th with A deal of pleasures & notwithstanding I love to hear often from thee; yet was so far from harbouring any censure that I was very much Concerned for thee & thy dear spouse & children on y^e account of y^e apprehension of y^e near approach of y^e Canadians; & y^e damage thay did in y^e neighbourhood of Albany which as often as I heard of I was uneasy perticularly for thee & thine.

thy relation of y^e good effect of Madera wine in y^e fever at Albany puts me in mind of y^e imediate reliefe I found by it when I was seised with A fever & painful loosness with suddain prostration of strength; by Susquehana at a house of plenty of either food or Phisick & other necessities y^e good woman would needs give me A dram of what she called A Cordial which I suppose might be good of its kind but very disagreeable to me after which she urged me to take some Madera wine I tould her to put two spoonful in A pint of cold water & thro A hot burning crust into it; I sipped most of it leasurly with A spoon but before I had quite finished it I found A cessation of that turbulent motion in my bowels & such an universal quiet that I could hardly hold my eys open I desired to go to bed where I sweat freely & slept quiet for several hours & then arose & walked about y^e plantation, at night rested well next day being prety hearty I eat two freely at dinner on roast & boiled flesh; then set out & rode 10 mile to another house, but my feavour & painfull looseness returned upon me grievously; before night, & next morning was stil worse when I set out for directly home y^e fever thirst & painfull looseness stil Continuing; this day I travailed near 40 miles & called at y^e taverns to get some madera wine but they said they had none; at my lodgings I asked for some thay brought me some black berry wine but it seemed very

disagreeable & instead of uniting friendly with my spirits as y^e Madera wine had done it raised A Pertubation. this was y^e first time I knowed y^e material difference betwixt our home made wines & y^e Madera Next day I reached home & soon got some Madera which seemed to refresh me.

I have received but one letter from Gronovius since I sent the account of those plants that is to bear our names: & that contained y^e names of several kinds of fosils which I sent him

Peter Collinson sent in my packet A pamphlet treating of y^e northern lights; & A paper of y^e changing of y^e poles of y^e loadstone; & y^e steel magnets which I left to y^e care of our friend franklin to send to thee directly I should esteem it as an extraordinary pleasure to be with thee on y^e Cats kill mountains but these troublesome times is A great interuption to such agreeable amusements: if I should determine to go to them I shall surely send thee my intentions

I suppose thee hath allready heard of y^e Electrical experiments which thay can so efectually apply to A man as well as to many other objects as to fill him so full of fire that if another man doth but put his finger to y^e electrified person y^e fire will fly out & strike that part which approacheth nearest I take this to be y^e most Surprising Phoenomena that we have met with & is wholly incomprehensible to thy friend

JOHN BARTRAM.

[Indorsed]

To

Doctor CADWALADER COLDEN

These

Free B FRANKLIN

From Governor George Clinton

NEW YORK 11th March 1747

Sir

I am favoured with your letters of y^e 19 Feb^{ry} & 2^d Ins^t which I have been thinking how to answer to your

satisfaction. I am perfectly Satisfied that you have endeavoured to serve His Maj^t & me with Zeal & Sincerity, & y^t none but Partys in opposition to all good Government cou'd find fault with the measures y^t were taken by your advice, But you see by y^e inclosed extract of S^r P Warrens letter to me by y^e last Ship, how far thos measures have been confined at home, and to what lengths he carrys it, Can this proceed from any thing but a misrepresentation of Facts whereby the unexpected change has happened, & I have reason to believe that my letters have been intercepted on misconstroud to His Grace by S^r Peter who I find stiks at nothing for y^e sake of his own Interest & Friends, however prejudicial to mine. Therefor I am of opinion it highly behoves you to clear up this Point to His Grace either by Memorial or letter in order to blacken your evil accusers, the ship will sail in ab^t a Month & what ever you may think proper to represent by y^t oppertunity, I shall take care to forward, I think some remarks woud be proper to be made upon S^r Peters letter in answer which letter I intend to send to the Duke & friends to show his Insolence. You may be assur'd of all my Interest at this distance to support you with my Friends, But it is a great misfortune to me y^t my agent continues indisposed, & so active a one as S^r Peter to be on y^e Spot, & have some reason to believe others I depended on are bribed by S^r Peter who had intirely my Nephews ear by my desire & pritty much follows their advice, Nevertheless this advantage shall niver induce me to restore the Scribler to any part of his Employments let y^e Consequences be what it will. I shoud be glad if you woud explain what power I have by my Commission & what you infer therefrom in case of my leaving the Province, or if I have a power either by my Commission or Instructions to lay aside y^e appointment, I may have directions to do it before I go, M^r Allexander has promised to give me his Sentiments thereon, at y^e same time it will require very strong reasons to Support an act of this nature.

M^r Nicolls informs me y^t he sends me y^e votes of y^e

present assembly whereby you will see how matters go, but I am determin'd not to pass any of their bill without being duly & properly considered & when I can discover y^e Event of their Proceedings, I shall have recourse to y^e opinion thereon, in y^e Examining account bill they have altered y^e Commision^{rs} so far as to be y^e Members of y^e City for y^e time being, & sent to me to know if I had any objection to those Gentlemen being sent as well a y^e others y^t be appointed for cancelling y^e bills of Credit and as I did not care a farthing I sent them word I had none to show every body (as woud see) y^t I mett them intirely as New Members, I hear by all accounts there is a good deal of uneasiness amongst y^e Faction, but I have been up till seven this morning with Kennedy Rutherford &c &c and my Family & Dancing at Roberts without even a blind Fidler, when we drank your health with pleasure & joyn in Compliments to you & family & am

D^r Sir

Your friend & servant

G. CLINTON

From John Rutherford

ALBANY 17th March 1747

Dear Sir

I'm glad to see by yours of the 11th Inst I have now the favour of that you are returned to New York, I wish you had passed the winter there, for among many other things relating to our Forces here I think The Governour has been very ill advised in not allowing us to assist The New England troops against Crown point, The Winter proved extremely favourable for such an attempt & The Troops very healthy & in good Spirits & wanting nothing but Indian shoes & stockings & some of them Wastcoats which could have been all got here in two or three days time. I'm in great hopes by the first Sloops now to hear from you the Contents of The Boston Packet which no

doubt will a little clear up the darkness we're now involved in. Mrs Rutherford will be in New York in 3 or 4 weeks however should anything occur relateing to me before She arrives try to fix matters as we proposed at parting. I don't wirtē to His Excellency for leave to come down, as I could not be in New York without being in Council & if he inclined to have me there, to be sure he would let me know it; I did not trouble him with any letters this winter, there being nothing worth while but what 'twas the duty of His Lt Coll^s to inform him of & by what's past I know well he would have more regard to their Accounts of things than mine. I wonder you say nothing of The Governour's comeing up as he wrote to Mess^{rs} Marshall & Collins, I fancy he has laid aside thoughts of it again at least untill he hears from England. Pray what's to be done with the Pensilvania Maryland & Virginia Companys not yet Regimented, who do you think will be impowered to name their Field Officers, If Gov^r Clinton could be prevailed on, upon your Account to annex my Company to them I would push hard for The Coll^s Commission as I'm assured by Governour Shirley & Governour Thomas that they'l doe me what Service they can & I think I can depend on their friendship if 'tis either in their power to do or to recommend. I send this by Capt Richards which makes me write with the more freedom, so if you find anything can be done in the above or in our former project that requires my being at New York as well as Mrs Rutherford, 'tis easy for you to desire the Governour to send me a line, to attend him at New York. I don't like this scheme of the Bostoners sending 1200 men more to Annapolis Royal especially as they send Coll^l Twights Regiment with Coll^l Waldo's which Regiments would have been properest of any they have to assist us against Crownpoint. I'm sorry we shan't have the benefit of Mr Lidius for A Guide & to assist in manageing the Indians that may go along with us in case we should march, as he'l be oblidged to follow his Regiment being A Major & Capt in Mr. Waldo's Regiment, he is only sent back now

from Boston to assist Mr. Johnstoun in sending out scalping partys &c. Hoping soon the pleasure of another letter from you I am D^r Sir most sincerely Yours &c. &c.

JOHN RUTHERFURD.

From William Douglass

BOSTON March 19th 1746/7

Cadwallader Colden Esq^r

S^r With this I send you two Nos or pamphlets, the nature of the thing you may observe: it will be published in parcels as leasure time allows, and shall be remitted to you from time to time

Please to contribute by some hints concerning the legislature, Taxes, Quitrents, Exports of Furs, Skins, Flower Copper-ore; and boundaris of New York & Jerseys as also wherein consists the dispute between Mary^l and Pensylvania, and what has been done in it I am sincerely

D^r S^r

Your most humble Ser^t

WIL. DOUGLASS

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

New York

p^r Capt Brenham Q D C
with 2 pamphlets

From Peter Collinson

LOND March 27: 1746/7

My Dear Friend

Although I have taken notice of y^{rs} of June 20th 1746—yett I have now run it over afresh am struck with the Greatness of y^r Designs.

Your Essay on the Causes of Gravitation & to Investigate it, is the Work for a Mans Life—I have distributed the Books to our Greatest People on these Studies both at Home and Abroad In Holland, Germany, Paris, Sweden, Scotland, Dantzick &c For the Case was This on Delivering out those you First sent mee, amongst people of the First Rank in Mathematical Studies the Curiosity of the Subject Soone Gott Wind and so Much inquirey was made after It that Brindley the Princes Bookseller without my Leave or Licence published It in the Manner you See by the Specimen Inclosed So that all the Town was Furnish'd Long before your 2 [℥]els of Coppys Came—So that I had nothing more to Do but to Communicate y^r Systeme to my Ingeneous Fr^{ds} Abroad—If you had informed Mee In your First Letter of yr Intention of Sending Such a number of Coppys, I would not have deliver'd the first Nine untill the others arrived,—I wish it had been otherwise, for you might as Well have putt Five pounds in your pocket as a Stranger.

I have besides made a [℥]sent of a Book to the Royal Society, it is well Esteem'd & admire'd. Some knowing people have gave mee Expectation of some Observations on It, but Wether I shall be able to procure them by these ships I cannot Saye—— Both y^{rs} of July 8th Last came safe to my hands with John Armitts Draught for £105 15s 10d on Truman & Douglas, which is paid & your Good Bro^r has sent mee, a General Release & Discharge for you for the Legacy of 200 Pens^a money Left by Elizth Hill which I for the [℥]sent shall defer sending these precarious Times Untill I have y^t further orders This Intercourse with y^r Bro^r has Induced Him to request my assistance to Settle his Son in London The young Man came up & good providence with a Little of my assistance He is now Setled as a Clerk to a principal Brewer, upon his beeing So very Well provided for, he has Sent his Second Son a Good Likely young Man who is a Cabinet Maker & I doubt not but he will find Encouragement

And I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that your Indian History is now in the press Mr Osbourn Bookseller has undertaken It at his own Expence I shall Send you some Coppys when Finish'd, Our Fr^d Doc^r Mitchell assisted in Drawing up the Title page, I have spared no thought or pains to Introduce it into the World at this Juncture when it was of Such Importance to be perused by Every True Lover of his Country the last Treaty came very opertunely to be Inserted the Govern^{rs} Conduct in the Treaty the year before has been represented here in no favourable Light But now you are thought fitt to be admitted into his Councils wee are thswaded if he will Submitt to your Advice It will give A favourable Turn to His Future Administration.

I wish I was sufficiently Skilld in Mathematical Studies to be Some Judge of y^r System of Gravitation &c to mee it seems Rational but I hope some Men of Skill will give you theer thoughts on it Doc^r Bevis has promised mee & some others I am Sorry to tell you I have one of the Bundles Left by mee what shall I do with It

In y^{rs} of Decem^r 3^d You Hint the Extraordinary Trouble & Expence you have been at in attending the Govern^r & publick Business—to be sure you ought to be Consider'd. If there is any Vacant place in y^e Governm^t Deserving you or your Sons Acceptance Your Govern^{rs} Recommending you to the Duke of Newcastle may be a Service but if you are recommended to the Duke for Him to do Something for you, without telling Him what & your Fr^{ds}, Here, what it is, Such recommendation is only a thing of Course & will all come to Nothing If your Gover^r is not a Courtier he is a Kin to those that are,—and Expectation of something but no body knows what, is the Extraordinary recompence they bestow on those that Serve Them——

I shall not be awanting when you have Really Something to ask that is Vacant that Will be of Service to you & your Family in giving you all Mine & my Fr^{rds} Interest
vale my Dear Fr^d

P COLLINSON

P S. Your Indian Treatys & History will Come bound to a five shilling Book—do you think of a proper ^{Person}son to Send of them too, In N York or Boston for M^r Osbourn has a mind to Send some abroad

I have a person in Philadelphia that I shall recommend Him too but I don't know proper ^{Persons}sons in New York or Boston or Charles Town in South Carolina

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
New York.

From John Rutherford

ALBANY 9th Aprile 1747

Dear Sir

I'm sorry to see by Yours which I had lately the favour of that no certain Accounts are yet arrived relating to our proceedings in this Part of the world, but I don't expect The Governour will come here until he has directions from home, tho we have daily Accounts of his setting out Soon. You'll have all the particulars from His Excellency relateing to the Attack made by 30 Indians & 30 Soldiers detached from the Garrison at Crown point under the Command of Mr Sherbine, upon Cap^t Trent L^t Proctor & 40 Men being A Party returning from an Escort to Sarahtoga, The Officers & Men by all Accounts behaved well, retireing below A Bank, behind some trees, & defended themselves keeping The Enemy at a distance untill their Cartridges were expended & had their retreat covered by L^t Bratt with A party from the Fort which was A Mile & ½ distant, we had 9 kill'd as many Wounded & 6 taken. L^t Johnstoun Sent out with A Party from The Fort luckily fell upon The Enemys Camp 2 Miles from where they attacked our Party which surprized so much that they march'd off in disorder leaveing part of their litle baggage behind them & A French Soldier so wounded that he could not get off.

They took amongst Capt Trent's Baggage all the letters from Saragtoga full of complaints of the unhealthy place they are in, not above a third of the Men fit for duty &c., which was allways the case & will be so while A Garrison is kept there which I hope won't be long, being neither fit for defending the Country nor A fort of Communication. This foolish scheme of Albany Bush loupers will make room for more Jobs. I long to hear from you what we're to expect. Mrs Rutherford will be down in a fortnight I am D^r Sir Sincerely Yours &c. &c.

JOHN RUTHERFURD

Peter Collinson to Benjamin Franklin

LOND April 12th 1747

My Dear Frd

The Inclosed Account came from a very Ingenious Frd of Mine & being the first that I have heard, In which Electricity has proved of Benefit to mankind I believe it would be Entertaining to you—but before Wee can rely on the Experiment It must be confirm'd ^{by} many Successively—It is amazing to what a pitch the Electrical power is carried, I am well Informed that In Germany they knock'd down an Ox Several Men have been Struck down at London, one was an Irish Bishop a Lusty Strong Man & yett could not Surmount the Shock—I presume by this Time the aparatus is got into the Colonies for there is no discribing the Electrical power unless a ^{Man}son feels it himself

You will Expect to hear Some thing of Doc Coldens Ingenious ^{Performance} It is much admired by Some and those of most abilities have told mee that it was no trifling affair but required great Consideration but one was so meane Spirited as to Say He did not believe it was Doc Coldens Work but that the Ship wrack papers of Some Ingenious European had fell into his hands, as this was So very Meane I would not Hint it to Doc^r Colden &

indeed I am much ashamed for the thson that wrote it—Several have promised mee some observations on his Scheme but none is yett Come to hand—but I have sent his Books to my Correspondants in Sweeden, Russia, Paris, Holland, Nurembergh Scotland, &c So no doubt but Wee shall hear from some of them & our Curious people In England have been Supplied, the Demand was so great It was reprinted Here, before his Bundles Came this comes from behind the Counter you know what a shop Is to write under no Interruption but I am used to It & my frds are so good to Excuse all my Blunders I am truly y^{rs}

P COLLINSON.

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD April 15 1747

S^r

I have been so much taken up of late in riding several Journeys & various other affairs, that this must be my Apology for not Sooner answering your kind Letter of Jan^{ry} 27. Your beautiful little Draught of the *First principles of Morality*, is what I have been very much pleased with. I have read it with attention three times, & each time with a fresh Increase of Pleasure, & I now at length return you my hearty thanks for it, & for the Candour you express towards the Small peice I had the presumption to publish.—You have in this little Tract of yours made Such an easy gradual & natural progress from *Physics* to *Metaphysics*; & from thence to *Morality* as is very pleasing to the mind; & I think, if I rightly apprehend you, you have now so explained your self that we do much differ, & what difference yet remains I imagine is but meerly verbal. My chief Objection was against your using the Term *Action*, as expressing any thing in *Matter*, which I take to be a meer passive thing, & therefore that *Action* cannot in any strict propriety of Speaking be attributed to it.—For which reason that Ex-

pression Still grated upon my mind till I came to your 7th Section, in which, when you come to explain the difference between Spirit & Body, you say, "The Actions of the latter are altered by efficient Causes *always* external to themselves."—This seems evidently to conclude what I would be at, & that at the Bottom we really think alike, & that when we Speak of the *Action* of matter, we use that word for want of a better, in a Sense rather figurative than literal, & must understand it in a vulgar Sense rather than a Sense that is Strictly philosophical (like the motion or Attraction of the Sun) as we may call writing the *Action* of the pen, when it is only merely *acted*; & consequently I apprehend that by the *Action* of matter you do not mean any *Exertion* of it's own, much less a designed conscious Self-Exertion, which always enters into my Notion of Efficient Causes, & that, therefore, when you Say the Action of Bodies is *altered*, & consequently determined by (the Exertion, I would say, of) *Efficient Causes always external to themselves*, those Efficient Causes must always be self-exerting & intelligent Beings, i. e. Spirits, which therefore, only can be properly Agents.—I would therefore understand you to mean, That all the Actions in all Nature that affect our Senses & excite Ideas in our Minds, are really & in truth the Actions of that Great Supreme & Almighty Being or Spirit, whom you call (25) *The Soul of the Universe*.—I do not with S^r Isaac in his *Schol. gen.* quite like that Expression—It may however be admitted if it only means that he animates & governs the Sensible World as the Soul does the Body which is merely passive to it; so far it is right: In this Sense He is the Natural Governour of the world, or rather of the Natural World,—But this seems not Sufficient unless, at the Same time you conceive of Him as being the Moral Governour of the Intelligent or Moral World, rewarding or punishing them, (i. e. making them to feel pleasure of pain,) according as they behave well or ill: (it being the sole End of all the pains he inflicts to cure moral evil, & bring them at length to an intire obedience to the great & universal Law of Nature

i. e. to be governed by Reason & Right:) which is what I would understand you to mean by the following words, *The Supreme Governour of his Creatures.*

You Say very truly, S. 9. *We have no Idea of Matter:* by which it is plain that by matter, you mean something that is not the object either of our Senses Imaginations or Intellects, or what use then is it in Philosophy? Why may we not wholly drop it & do as well without it, perhaps much better? & why may we not suppose, (or indeed how can we avoid it?) that what you call the Action of matter, is really, & only, the Action of that Almighty Spirit *in whom we live move & have our Being & whose offspring we are,* & consider all Nature as being the glorious system of his incessant Exertions & Operations, with which (without the Intervention of any Stupid insignificant thing y^t we have no idea of) he does, by his own Action, Governed by fixed, Stable Rules of his own most wise establishment, called the Laws of Nature, perpetually affect our senses & minds with an endless variety of Sensible Objects, This will Sufficiently account for every thing; whereas matter whereof we can have no Idea can account for nothing.

You use the Expression, §20.21. *during the time of our Existance*, which sounds as tho' it was to have a period with this vain life. This I cannot Suppose to be your meaning, (& therefore perhaps might be better left out, or *in the whole of our existence* or some such word, put in it's stead.) because I apprehend you must think it evident from the wisdom, justice & Goodness of God, compared with that excellent Nature He has given us, that we must be designed for nobler Ends than can be answered by our Existance only in this Short, dark, uncertain & troublesome Life.—Thus S^r I have used the Freedom you desire, & which I doubt not you will take in the Same good part, & with the same pleasure I do yours, & always Shall.—I am glad to find by your Gazetts, that you are at length resolved to have a College in your Government. This is what I doubt not, you have much at heart, & I heartily wish Success to is, & shall willingly

correspond with you in any thing in my little power that may tend to promote it, & I wish it may take Effect Speedily that you may not suffer the Jersey College, (which will be a fountain of Nonsense,) so get a head of it.—I am S^r

Your most obliged
humble Servant
SAMUEL JOHNSON

To D^r COLDEN.

From William Douglass

BOSTON 16th April 1747

Cadwallader Colden Esq^r
S^r

Dated 19th March last, I sent 2 No^s of an Essay towards the History of British Settlements in North America, according to promise I now send N^o 3 As this requires good help, besides what I desired in my last, please favour me with some accounts of the two Governments of Pennsylvania, you are well acquainted in this affair

My good friend M^r Gray from Glasgow the bearer, I recommend to your countenance and advice in his Mercantile affairs. I am

D^r S^r
Your most humble Ser^t
WIL. DOUGLASS.

To
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq.
in New York
w^t a pamphlet

Gov. Clinton to Gov. Shirley?
[In handwriting of Cadwallader Colden.]

[April 1747]

S^r

I sometime since sent you a copy of my Speech to the Assembly of this Province I now inclose with this a Copy of their resolves in answer to it by which you may per-

ceive what is to expected from this Province & I have no reason to hope for more as things stand at present If any alterations happen in their Sentiments it must be the effect of the Orders we shall receive from Court. The season this spring is more favourable than usual & if it were in my power I would not loose one moment in employing the New Levies in forwarding the purposes for which they were raised & that his Majesty be in no manner disapointed in any expectations he may have of our being in readiness to act on the Enterprize for which the levies were intended & of our having don every thing that can be expected to be don without his special Order. For this reason I think it may be proper to march some part at least of the troops of New England as well as those in this Province as soon as possible to the carrying place above Sarahtoga, between Hudson's River & wood Creek & there to erect two Forts one at each end of the Carrying place sufficient to protect the Magazines & stores from any sudden surprise as was proposed by Coll. Roberts at Boston to which by your letter of the 10th of last month you agreed & that the Magazines & stores be transported thither as soon as may be that we may be in a condition to put in execution what ever orders we may receive with all the dispatch that may be expected from us I have the doing of this the more at heart because I think it at the same time the most effectual method we can take for security of our Frontiers & preventing the Incurions of the Ennemy upon the Inhabitants. But the great difficulty, which remains with me, is the pay of the troops and of the charges which must necessarily attend their march. For I am of opinion that it may be hazardous even to propose their marching till they have at least some part of their pay due to them for in case they should refuse to march without it disobedience & mutiny may be introduced of which it may not be easy either to foresee or prevent the bad consequences. It seems to me likewise necessary that what ever be don with respect to the pay of any of the New Levies of any of the Colonies be equally don to all & that the rates of exchange be fixed

in such manner that no one have reason to think that he is better or worse used than another. These seem to me matters of such consequence that they are absolutely necessary to be fixed & ascertain'd before any particular orders be given for putting the forces in action & therefor I must desire your Sentiments and advice on these particulars & on what else you may think proper on this occasion that we may act uniformly & in concurrence with each other. As it seems reasonable that Connecticut join with us in erecting the Forts at the Carrying place & in marching their forces thither I think it proper for me to write to the Gov^r of that Colony to know his sentiments And as you know I suppose that the Forces of Connecticut are under my Commission being apointed Captⁿ Gen^l of Connecticut as well as of New York I must desire your opinion & advice as to the pay of the levies & Commissions to the officers in that Colony at what rate the Exchange is to be in their money in case they shall insist on having any part of their pay & what method is to be taken for their pay & for giving them commissions for so far as I am inform'd the officers have receiv'd no kind of Commission more than their Governors Warrant to enlist men Now to enable you to give your Sentiments on the several points which I desire upon others which you may think requisite on this or any future occasion I must inform you that from what I can observe The assembly of this Province will endeavour to avoid all kind of expence that they can with any colour or pretence throw upon the Croun And that some of great influence are desirous if they can to bring this Province into a kind of Newtrality as it was in Queen Anne's War. It was I believe with this view that the Gov^r of Canada sent the message to the six Nations after my treaty with them wherein he told them that he took pity of the People of Albany & would after that turn the Indians against their Inveterate Ennemies of New England

I send this by express that I may have your thoughts upon every thing which you think can be of use with all the distinctness possible & as soon as may be for you

must be sensible that the disposition of many of this province together with our Scituation lays me under difficulties from which you & other Governors are freed.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

NEW YORK May 2^d 1747

My dear

I am at this time so deeply engaged in publick affairs by the news of a Mutiny among the Forces at Albany that I have scarce a moment to my self The Gov^r had resolv'd yesterday before we were inform'd of the heighth this Mutiny is got to to apoint one of my son's Muster Master I design it for Cadwallader & he must be ready to go to Albany as soon as his Commissⁿ & orders shall come to his hands For this purpose I send him up a ps of Linnen stockings & a New hat He will want Money for his Expences I expect M^r Ellison will assist him in that till he get his pay which I expect will be the same with that of a Captain Perhaps a sloop may be order'd to stop to take him in but I hope to have time to write again before this can happen I shall after this write more fully & on every thing you may expect In the mean time I assure you that I am in perfect health & I intreat you as the greatest pleasure you can do me to take care of your own health

Your most affectionate
CADWALLADER COLDEN

The Children will inform
you of several things I have
not time to write

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at
Coldingham.

*Part of Mr Hamilton's Speech to the Assembly of the
Jerseys at Perth Amboy May 6th, 1747*

[In Colden's handwriting]

The distracted state of the Province occasioned by the many great Riots obliges me again to call on you to take some vigorous measures to punish these daring disturbers of the publick peace These people have grown strong & numerous by passing so long with impunity for besides those two great Riots at Newark which happen'd in the late Governors life time & which were recommended to you by him there have been since so many bold daring attempts made to throw of his Majesty's Authority & their dependence in the Brittish throne that they call loudly for the severe resentment of the Legislature.

These bold people have in a publick manner denyed his Majesty's Title to New Jersey, they have refused to pay obedience to his laws & have publicly contemned his Authority. They have broke open his Goals beat & abused his officers & Ministers of Justice Turned people out of the Quiet Possession of their lands & put others into their places They have associated themselves together in defiance of the Gov^t have frequently met in great numbers & marched from one part of the Province to another insolently giving out that they are so strong & numerous as not to be affray'd of any force the Gov^r are able to bring agt them All the steps that it was prudent & in the Power of the Gov^r have been taken to bring the Criminals to Justice & put a stop to so dangerous & growing an evil but these measures have all proved ineffectual & have only occasioned fresh riots & contempts of his Majesty's Authority in consequence of which the course of common Justice has been for some time at a stand. These matters are all so publickly known that particular proofs are needless However I have order'd the several letters & Papers relating to these disturbances to be laid before you for your perusal

I must observe to you that it is impossible to suppose Great Brittain will part with so valuable a Colony as

New Jersey or that his Majesty will suffer his Authority & Laws to be trampled under foot in any part of his Dominions tho ever so remote from his royal person & the attempt to do it is certainly as vain as it is weak & wicked If the People of New Jersey will not be Governed by the mildest of Laws they themselves will thereby render it necessary to govern them by force for we cannot suppose that a Brittish Parliament will suffer these things long to pass with impunity.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

My Dear

I am so exceedingly hurried by preparing things for an express that is to go up to Albany this evening that I have no time to say any thing more to you Then to tell you that as the Mutiny continues & encreases at Albany & they threaten to March home & perhaps some of them are gon by this time And as you are now on the road that they may take I think it advisable & must insist on your going to your Son Alexander's house with the Children. There you will be more out of the Way of their parties & you can if you think proper if you apprehend any danger there come down with the Children to this Toun The rest we must leave to Providence This I only say least you may be at a loss whether I would be pleas'd with it tho' I do not at present apprehend any danger & I know you are not of that timerous temper to take what I write in such manner as to do any thing without an appearance of its being proper I wrote to our Son Alexander by an Express that went up two days ago That it was resolv'd that his Brother should not go up till the Mutiny is Quell'd so that he need not at present be in any hurry. Jenny & Alice went yesterday morning to West Chester I rec^d a letter from Alexander of the 4th Instant but I have not time to answer it

Your most affectionate

NEW YORK May 6th

CADWALLADER COLDEN

1747

Draft of letter from Gov. Clinton to Duke of Newcastle

[In handwriting of Cadwallader Colden. Subject matter in Documents relating to . . . New York Vol VI. p. 340 dated May 11, 1747]

By what I could learn from your Grace's letter to me of the — of — 1746 directing & ordering me to make levies in this Governmt for an Expedition which is Majesty intended against Canada it did not appear to me that the paying these levies was any part of the Duty which his Majesty had laid on me on that Occasion But by General's St Clair's not coming to America & Mr Gooch's declining the command of those Forces & the Governors of the other Colonies refusing to have any concern in the Forces levied in their respective Governments after they had marched to the place of Rendezvous in my Government the whole Weight of every thing relating to these troops falls upon me

As I expected his Majesties Orders relating to these Forces after all hopes of the arival of the fleet were given up till the severity of the Winter came on I still delay'd taking any method for payment of them during the Winter as by their being in Winter Quarters & supplied with Provisions I hoped they would remain contented till the Spring when I did not doubt to know his Majesty's pleasure with respect to their pay as early as the Season of the year would permit This made me delay from day to day (being every day in hopes or receiving orders on this head) taking any method for the paying of them tho' at the same time their officers were under a necessity of giving them hopes that they would receive their pay before this time to prevent the ill effects of the murmurings which began to appear among them by the want of their pay till at last about the — day of April several of the companies refused to do any duty & afterwards several of them left the places where they were posted for security of the Frontiers & the Mutiny began to be general through the New Levies of all the several

Colonies which now are in this Province & several of them left their Posts in whos companies I thereupon immediately acquainted the Governours of the Massachusetts bay & of Connecticut with what had happen'd & desir'd them to send detachments of the Forces in their Governments to support the Garison at Sarahtoga where a train of Artillery & other ammunion of War were lodged & which is most exposed to the Ennemy At the same time I desir'd them to march what force they could to their own Frontiers towards Albany to support me on this Emergency & to prevent the ill effects that may happen from any Intelligence the Ennemy might receive of these disorders among the Forces on the Frontiers of this Province & which are the nearest to Canada & at a small distance from the French Garison at Croun point.

At the same time I was advised by his Majesty's Council of this Province to pay each man of the New levies including those of the other Colonies which now are on this Province as well as those levied in it forty shillings current money of New York & to promise to pay twenty shillings monthly till such time as I shall receive his Majesty's orders with respect to the pay of these forces As they were of opinion that there is an absolute necessity for this at present & that there is no method for obtaining the money but by Bills of Exchange on the Pay—— I have accordingly drawn Bills of Excha for —— pounds Sterline on the pay office at ninety days sight As the assembly had absolutely refused again this Session to contribute any thing towards this expence I was under a necessity of complying with this advice of Council because ther is no other method in any shape to obtain the money necessary on this occasion & if the New levies should continue to mutiny this & the other Colonies must be in danger not only from the Ennemy but exposed to the ravages & other disorders of mutinous soldiers As I have now engaged my own Fortune for the payment of these Bills merely for his Majesty's service without possibility of private benefit to my self thereby

I must intreat your Grace to lay the case in such manner before his Majesty that my family may not suffer by it & that proper orders be given to the Pay office for the payment of these Bills I must likewise beg of your Grace that as I must be at considerable charge for receiving Carriage of & paying this money at the far distant places at which the several companies are Posted some method may be taken out of the fund made by the one shilling in the Pound or otherwise for paying these & other contingent charges.

That the pay of the officers & men may be bona fide made & all deceits as much as in my power prevented I have follow'd the Directions of the Act of Parliament in appointing a Commissary of the Musters in whose ability & integrity I have reason to confide & thereby to take Cadwallader Colden Jun^r Commissary of the Musters & I shall take all methods that the circumstances of affairs will permit for procuring & sending proper Vouchers of the payment of the Money for the Service for which it is destin'd in the manner directed by Act of Parl^t I must intreat your grace to procure his Majestys orders for the paying of this Officer since I must advance for his pay in the same manner as for the other officers And I send along with this to M^r Guerin such papers as I think may serve for your Graces further information on this head As I have no account of the Arival of the money sent to Albany for the payment of the New levies I cannot tell what the Success may be as to quieting the minds of the Soldiers & bringing them back to their Duty But several doubt of the Success and as I believe that these disorders among the soldiers have been much forwarded by sinister views of several in this Province I likewise send some papers relating to the present state of this Province even my speech & Message to the Assembly of the Province which I must earnestly recommend to your Grace's consideration & that you would be pleas'd to recommend to his Majesty those alterations in the Council of this Province and appointment of a Lt Governor which in my letters last Winter I proposed as being in my

opinion necessary for his Majesty's Service & supporting me in my administration of the Gov^t And on this occasion I must inform your Grace that Mr Colden continues to assist me cheerfully against a most unreasonable as well as ungrateful opposition notwithstanding that his assistance is with considerable prejudice to his own private affairs & therefor I must heartily recommend him to his Majesty's favour in some shape or other & I must beg your Grace to allow me to say that if those who distinguish themselves in support of his Majesty's Authority in this Province be not distinguished by his Majesty's favour it will be impracticable for those in the administration to support it perhaps in any of the Colonies against the power of a Faction that may be form'd to the prejudice of it.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

My Dear

Andrew M^c Dowal telling that he is this moment going up I have only time to tell you that the hurry we have been in writing to England by a ship that sails this day & the affair of the Mutiny has taken up so much time that we have had none to think of Cadwalladers affairs but I hope we shall soon be able tho' writing by 2 other ships that are to go from Boston & Philad^{ia} will keep the Gov^r very busy. I assure you cannot desire more than I do to be with you for more than one night I hope it cannot be long now before I shall see you tho' not one word of News from England yet & Perhaps we may all return together as soon as we can learn that the Mutiny is pacified at Albany. I am in perfect health & Expect the children this day from West Chester. Pray continue to take care of your self The last express we had from Albany gives us hopes that things will be pacified there

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

New York

May 12th 1747

[Indorsed]

To M^{rs} COLDEN at Coldenham

From Peter Wraxall

Sir

A Party of above 100 of the Pennsylvania Troops were marcht off two days before our arrival here, the remainder of them & most of the other Forces about Albany, had thrown off all Discipline & obedience to their Officers. I shall not trouble you with particulars of the Methods since pursued, as I make no doubt Col Roberts will be sufficiently full on that head to the Gov^r

Most of the Pensylva^a Troops received their Quota^s yesterday, & the Forces in general appear calmer than some days ago, but I suspect it is but a flattering Interlude. Col Schuylers paying the Jerseys Troops their whole pay (w^{ch} was done on our arrival) has sown seeds of great discontent, & will I fear produce ill consequences, unless some News from Europe speedily comes. I have collected several proofs that the late behaviour of the Pennsylvania Troops has been chiefly Owing to false & Malicious reports spread amongst them by the Albany people, & w^{ch} their officers & several of their Men have publickly asserted & complained off, & I have taken the particulars in writing, & will produce when I have the pleasure of seeing you And tis all the Officers Opinion in general, that their ill influence has been the chief foundation of the late & present Discord. I have endeavoured to get names, but the Answers were, did not know them. Facts however I have got, & I woud propose a written Memorial signed by officers setting forth these matters with their Fatal consequences, but I am not a proper person to do it, as I have particularly distinguished myself by my aversion to those Wretches.—

As there are several Companys in distant Garrisons, & that the Distribution of the money takes up a good deal of time, this Affair cannot possibly be ended time enough for Vouchers to go by Gayton I judge 6 weeks will be the least it can be done in and as I am yet more confirmed by matters w^{ch} have occurd since my arrival here, in Opinion that a full & proper representation should be

personally made at home of all proceedings in relation to this Expedition, & that without delay, least prior misrepresentations should raise prejudices w^{ch} it may be afterwards difficult to remove, & bring on Consequences w^{ch} it will be certainly prudence timely to avert. And therefore I would wish you may think it proper, that I receive orders to deliver up my Charge to the Gov^{rs} or Col Robert's appointment, & that I be ordered down when I will communicate my observations & what particulars I have collected.

I do not trouble the Gov^r with a Letter, & beg you please to assure him of my Sincere & warm dispositions to serve him, & whenever in my power depend I am no less towards your self, as I am with real Esteem

Dear Sir

Your faithful & obed^t

hum Serv^t

PETER WRAXALL

ALBANY 15th May

1747

To the Hon^{ble} CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

NEW YORK May 20th 1747

My Dear

As I expected Cadwallader would be uneasy about his disappointments in not hearing from me I wrote to him & had not time to write to you but I take it that there is no great odds who I write to since I expect that you see every thing We were in hopes that we had got free of Assembly affairs till we should hear from England but we are disappointed in this as well as in many others I had wrote so far when I was interrupted & must go out so that what ever desire I have to write often to you I cannot I have mention'd my design of going home next week to the Gov^r He appear'd uneasy at it because of expecting every day to hear from England however if I can I will keep my resolution I must leave to the

children to write every thing that you may desire to know We have not heard from Albany since the money went up to pay the men & till then nothing can be determined about Cadwallader's going up Remember me affectionately to all our Children

Your most affectionate
CADWALLADER COLDEN.

[Indorsed]

To
Mrs COLDEN at
Coldenham

From John Rutherford

ALBANY 27th May 1747

Dear Sir

I'm heartily glad I have now found out A certain New Acquaintance's designs, while I looked on him as my friend & as I'm but too apt to trust, I own he Humbled me a litle, tho I never could believe half his Insinuations of Your Character, your expressions of me & of your designs of keeping me & others at a distance from the Governour in order to have his whole ear. I hope & expect You'l now have as litle regard to what he says on one side as I have on the other for 'tis plain his only design has been to create a difference instead of which I dare say 'twill have the quite contrary Effect. I have to day wrote to the Governour desireing he'd order the Chief Justice & c. to examine the Indians who attacked Capt Tibout's Man. Capt Honneyman goes Express to day about pay; I wrote you in my last that Discipline was at least as much wanted, but now unless we get Commanding officers from home 'tis in vain to think of it, but while I write this perhaps the affairs all over I long impatiently to hear from you & am with great Sincerity & regard for you & all your Good Family

D^r S^r

Intirely Yours & c & c
JOHN RUTHERFURD

[Indorsed]

to
The Honourable
CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
at
New York.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

My Dear

I do not wonder to find by yours of the 23d instant that you begin to be uneasy Your remaining so long otherwise was a great ease to me There is nothing in the publick affairs that has given me any uneasiness of mind All my concern is for you that you keep your Spirits while you are so solitary & are obliged to have the whole care of the family upon you If you keep your health & take care of your self happen what will as to the publick disputes I don't doubt but we shall meet with pleasure I was resolv'd to have return'd this week but Alsies relapse makes it impracticable at this time I shall not venture her upon the water while there can be any danger to her health It is the slow lingring fever that she is taken with The least stirring or being exposed to the air disorders her much But even under this misfortune it is some comfort to see what regard some friends show Mrs Waren Mrs Watts Mrs Moore & all our Acquaintance in general have been to visit her & express a good deal of affection for her But indeed the concern which M^r Nichol's family have shown & the trouble they have taken is beyond what can be well expressed Mr Alexanders family likewise on all occasions show their concern for us I forgot to mention that Mrs Chief Justice made her a visit last Sunday. I suppose Jenny will write particularly to you & as our Daughter Colden returns at this time she can inform you of every particular you desire to know You cannot doubt of my care & concern & pray keep me from any doubt of your care for your self. If any thing should ail you it will be too hard for me to bear. Assure Johnny that I am fully satisfied of his care & I am sure of not being displeased with any thing I shall see at my return I am so fully satisfied in your care that I can have no suspicion of any thing being amiss by my absence if you keep your health & keep your spirits up I cannot help again &

again to repeat to take care of your self It is surprising that not one word should at this time be heard from the Ministry but as this is not in our power to help we must bear it with patience but it lays us under great difficulties how to act & Cadwallader must have patience as to his commission when ever it can be of use he will have it but till the Mutinies are over at Albany it can be of no use

I had wrote so far yesterday now I have the pleasure to assure that Alice is bravely to day & I hope she will soon be able to go abroad There has been a good deal of Hysteria in her case that produced some symtoms which made me more uneasy than I had real cause for & I hope you will not be uneasy that I keep her here till I think there can be no danger in her travilling for you know that where there is any thing Hysterical any fatigue is very apt to give disorder Mrs Watts has very kindly offered her coach to her to take the air There is another malicious paper printing from the Assembly but do not trouble your self about it It can neither hurt the Gov^r nor me with any considerate person but evidently discovers what sort of men the Authors of it are & will contribute to bring all our Disputes to a more speedy conclusion At the same time it makes me more desirous to be here when the News comes from England which we have all the reason in the World to expect cannot be long Nothing shall make me uneasy happen what will if you & the children keep your healths & remain cheerfull. My Love to the children

Your most affectionate
CADWALLADER COLDEN.

May 28th 1747

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at
Coldingham.

Gov. Clinton to Duke of New Castle

[In Colden's handwriting. See N.Y. Col. Doc's Vol. 6 p. 350]

[May 30, 1747]

I am under a necessity of giving your Grace the trouble of the inclosed representation from the Assembly of this Province from whence your Grace will easily perceive without any comment upon it that his Majesty is reduced to this Alternative either to Support his Authority in the hands of his Governor or to give it up to a Faction who are attempting to rule by meer popular influence Tho' I be perswaded that your Grace or any for you need only read it over to discover the views of purposes which the contrivers have yet it is not easy to conceive that so much malice could arise not only without kind of just provocation but with all the aggravations of the highest ungratitude or that such a paper could be penn'd without any truth to support if by men who bear the least Character of Gentⁿ yet in truth so it is & As things are at present scituated in this Province it is hardly possible to find a legal method for evincing of this or for the proof of Facts & forming a Judgement upon them because there is no person in Authority here that can in the present publick disputes be thought so indifferent that a showing at least reasonable exception may not be taken to him by one side or the other neither can it seem prudent or decent in a Gov^r in chief to subject his administration to the enquiry of those that are subject to his Authority If his Majesty from any thing on this representation shall think it of consequence sufficient to sending over a Commission to any persons he shall think proper not of this Province to make enquiry into my conduct since I have had the Administration of the Government it would give me much pleasure for thereby I would have it in my power which I cannot otherwise in a legal manner have to show that I have been so far from deserving the gross reflections which have been thrown upon me that I have with unwearied

diligence persued every thing that occur'd to me or was communicated to me by others for his Majesty's service & the Benefite of this & indeed of all the Brittish Colonies on North America & this under such difficulties & obstructions as no Governor of this or of any other of the Colonies ever underwent from a most ungrateful & malicious opposition This my Lord I think may in a great measure appear from the representation it self wherein they endeavour to throw heavey Slanders upon my Character from no other evidence but that of common report or rumour without the least enquiry to know the truth of any Fact on which such report or rumour was placed whereas I think it may & hope to make it appear that these reports & rumours were first rais'd & industriously spread by the compilers of this representation & afterwards given as the reason of making it But besides this several Falshoods are boldly asserted of which there can be no doubt that they themselves knew to be such one instance of which comes within Your Grace's knowledge They say That his Majesty was graciously pleas'd to direct that the Presents to be made to the Indians in order to engage them in the War against the French *should be done at the charge of the Crown & without any charge to this Colony* Your Grace's letter was communicated to the Council & an extract of it laid before the assembly Your Grace knows there are no such words of any such import in your Grace's letter to me of the 9th of April 1746 & that it contains all the Directions which I have at any time receiv'd on that head Your Grace only directed that I should make the usual presents on that occasion by any words without expressing whether at the expence of the Croun or of this Province And tho the most usual presents to the Indians have been allwise at the Expence of the Province I was laid under a necessity of making them at the expence of the Croun when the assembly refus'd to bear that expence Now your Grace may observe how bold they are in their assertions when they are so litle upon their Guard in a matter within your Grace's own knowledge Your

Grace must allow me to say that such impudent Falshoods & such bare faced Slander was never perhaps so publickly & openly made which I make no doubt of proving when a proper opportunity shall be given me for that purpose.

But the Malicieous intent of the Authors of this Libel I think appears so evidently from its self & from the spirit which appears through it every where that I cannot make any doubt that from the Evidence this papers gives of it self your Grace will represent this matter in such manner to his Majesty that such orders & Instructions be made thereon as shall enable me effectually to suppress this dangerous & virulent Faction & to encourage those who have assisted me in withstanding the torrent of their violent passions If this be not don I am with humble submission of opinion that the Administration must hereafter remain in the hands of this or some other popular Faction that from time to time may arise & no man in this place will after this attempt to support his Majesty's authority in the hands of his Gov^r against the power & malice of such like Factions.

For this reason I must again earnestly recommend it to your Grace that Cadwallader Colden who is now the first in his Majesty's Council be apointed Lt Gov^r & y^t such encouragement be given to him as I formerly desir'd He has under all the difficulties which have been most inperiously thrown upon me assisted me with his advice & tho he has been 25 years in the Council & enjoy'd the personal friendship of all the proceeding Gov^{rs} (M^r Cosby only excepted) since he came into this province this verulent party are not able to fix any one definite charge against him notwithstanding they evidently show how desirous they are of doing it if they could & J A—— restored to his place at the Council board which he formerly had & which was that next to M^r Colden What ever were the reasons for suspending & removing this Gentleman from the Council I believe they have long since ceased He is possest of one of the best Estates in this Country has great natural & acquired abilities &

known to be well skilled in the law & well acquainted with all the publick affairs of this & the neighbouring Gov^{ts} whereby He will be of great Service to his Majesty on every occasion where such knowledge is requisite. By his Influence chiefly the Gov^t of New Jersey where he is of his Majesty's Council did in a much more generous manner provide for their part of the Expedition intended against Canada than was don in this Province & on all occasions he has shown himself a zealous & Loyal Subject to his Majesty & the present royal family

If these things be only done at this time & I be supported & encouraged by his Majesty's more general Instructions I make no doubt not only of suppressing this virulent opposition by the measures I shall after this take but preventing the like for the future Their only hopes are from the great clamours they think they have rais'd & from the influence they have gain'd in the Council & the assembly who are generally a low & ignorant set of mankind but their conduct in their opposition at this time has contrary to their expectation produced an evident disapprobation among the people of sense of which the Faction began to be sensible as in some measure appears from the last paragraph in the representation & the apprehension of this produced this violent & as it were last effort of a struggling party Men in this place are affray'd openly to discover their Sentiment whereby they may be exposed to the resentment of an evidently malicious Faction headed by a man known to be of violent passions & chief Justice of this Province for life When they shall think themselves in any safety from such resentments I make no doubt the sentiments of the people will appear very different from what they may seem now to be

The only reason for my not having exerted my Authority in a different manner from what I have don for suppression of this Faction is from the present circumstances of the publick affairs while we are engaged in War & an Expedition at this time by his Majesty's orders preparing against Canada least from any thing don by me

it should be supposed that any obstruction had been put to that service & it is from the sense they have of this that those in the opposition have been encouraged in their audacious proceedings If any doubt remain with your Grace on any point the Papers which I formerly sent to Mr Guerin I expect will sufficiently remove it.

From Peter Collinson

My Dear Fr^d

Having So Safe a Conveyance to the Warwick Man. of Warr to the hands of Gov^r Belcher—I send you your Brothers Discharge Your Book of Indian affairs is in the press.—

I have but a few minutes to Add that I am yr

Affectⁿ fr^d

P COLLINSON

LOND

June 1

1747

Pray my Resp to our Worthy

Fr^d Mr Alexander

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

Coldenham

New York.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

NEW YORK June 2^d 1747

My Dear

I have now the pleasure to tell you that Alsie is bravely recover'd. She was at Church last Sunday & goes abroad again a visiting but there is something unlucky in our public affairs to prevent my returning home The Gov^r is not well in his health & the troops are again

mutinying at Albany even so far as to threaten to plunder the Country if they have not their whole pay Till these things are settled it is so far from being proper for me to return that I am resolv'd if I do not see that things are like to be put into a better state at Albany to send for you & the Children to this place As to this I hope to be determin'd in two or three days at furthest either by the resolutions the Assembly shall take or by News from England for we hear that a Packet lay ready at Portsmouth for Boston & waited only for the Dispatches to be sent from Court. The assembly's last representation does them no service in this place people are generally dissatisfied with it & I believe the Assembly will see that the People are so before it be long. The mutiny continueing at Albany has occasioned the assembly to meet again upon Business. I think I cannot be now long from you I am in good health & as cheerful as at any time The Assembly's scolding has not the least effect upon my mind. I cannot write particularly to Cadwallader but he must not lay aside his thoughts of going to Albany I expect to be able to inform him fully by the return of the express which came last from Albany. Remember me affectionately to all our Children & I must allwise repeat to you to take care of your self as being the only thing I am affray'd you'll neglect

Your most affectionate
CADWALLADER COLDEN

[Indorsed]

To
Mrs COLDEN
at Coldenham

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

NEW YORK June 3^d 1747

My Dear

I wrote to you yesterday by M^r Ellison's sloop since which I recd yours which you wrote after our Daughter Colden's return home but Alsie or Jenny having it &

being gon out this afternoon to Greenwich with M^{rs} Warren I cannot tell the date. This I hope will satisfy you of Alsie's perfect recovery She is as cheerful as ever & nothing of her former illness appears but that she is a litle thinner. Her complexion is fresh & clear as ever. I can assure you My Dear nothing gives me any kind of uneasiness but my concern for you All the litle malice which has appear'd does not in the least affect me. I am as cheerful as ever As I know that events are not in my power I hope to submit to them with a cheerful mind what ever they be. This day a letter came from M^r Harison at Philad^{ia} that the Captⁿ of a privateer who was sent out to cruize on the coast writes that he had spoke with a ship boun in to Virginia who said he had parted with Admiral Warren on the banks of Newfoundland with 6 men of war & 40 transports. I am called away & only time to subscribe

Your most affectionate
CADWALLADER COLDEN

Mr Harison's letter was wrote
on Munday last & came by an
express the Gov^r had sent to
Philad^{ia}

[Indorsed]

To

M^{rs} COLDEN at Coldenham

From Benjamin Franklin

PHILAD^e June 5, 1747.

Sir

M^r Harrison tell me you are still in New York, as deeply engaged in Publick Affairs, I suppose, as ever. When I consider your present Disposition to Retirement & Philosophical Meditation, I pity you: But I hope that Success will attend your Cares for the Publick Good; and the Satisfaction arising thence will make you Some Amends.

The Deserters who are come hither from the Forces on your Frontiers, are 'tis said, unanimous in hating & Cursing the People of Albany. I wonder at it: For I should have imagin'd that a People to be defended, would, from mere Views of Self Interest, have treated Strangers that came to defend them, with Such Kindness and Hospitality as entirely to gain their Affections. Our Governor is gone, and no Measures are taken to send the Deserters back to their Colours, nor perhaps will be, unless the Expedition goes on; which I am sorry to hear from Boston, is thought to be laid aside, at least for this Summer. If this comes to be known among the Troops, I am afraid the Desertion will become yet more general; unless the Attempt on Crown Point, or something else to employ them, is enter'd upon; Men without Action generally growing uneasy and mutinous.

My Son, who will wait upon you with this, is returning to the Army, his military Inclinations, (which I hoped would have been cool'd with the last Winter) continuing as warm as ever. If the Forces are to remain in your Government, it may Sometimes fall in your Way to assist him with your Advice or Countenance, in which you would exceedingly oblige me

I send you by him, a Glass Tube; and enclose you the first Part of my Electrical Journal, which, rough as it is, may afford you some Amusement when you have a Leisure Hour. You will find in it, my Manner of Rubbing the Tube; to which I need only add, That it should be kept perfectly clean, and never sully'd by Handling &c.—By the time you have read & return'd this, I shall have a Second Part ready to send you, containing a great Number of Experiments, and more curious.—It is now discovered and demonstrated, both here and in Europe, that the Electrical Fire is a real Elemnt, or Species of Matter, not *created* by the Friction, but *collected* only. In this Discovery, they were beforehand with us in England; but we had hit on it before we heard it from them.—What relates to the wonderful Effect of *Points*, the Difference

between *Candle Light & Sun Light*, and several other things in these Papers, the Philosophers at home, are still, as far as we know, ignorant of.

I am, Sir, with great Respect
Your obliged & most humble

Serv^t
B. FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To
The Hon^{ble} CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
At
New York.

From Samuel Johnson

STRATFORD June y^e 6th 1747.

S^r

I give you many thanks for your's of May 8 which was very agreeable to me. I know your hands are full of public Affairs, So that it cannot be expected you Should have much Leisure for either thinking or writing on these Philosophical Subjects.—And could you be sensible of the manner of Life I am obliged to live I should have little occasion to make any apology for my being so long before I answer your obliging Letters, nor for my incorrectness of Expression when I do write, which is also doubtless the chief occasion of my not being clearly understood, as well as of my not thoroughly entering into your meaning: for my Case is not altogether dissimilar to that of St Paul, particularly in my being *in Journeyings often—& in perils among false Brethren*, as you will see by the inclosed, a Copy of w^c I beg your candid acceptance, & that you will convey the other Copy with my Service to M^r Watkins.—

I am intirely satisfied with the Amendments you allow me to make in the ingenious Draught you was so good as to Send me of your Notion of the first principles of Morality,—with which it now runs clearly to my Mind, & is equally pleasing to my Friends here to whom I have

communicated it.—As for the incidental Turn I made upon an Expression of yours in favour of Bp Berkelys System, I was little more than jocular on that occasion; being not dogmatically tenacious of his peculiar Sentiments, much less zealous of making you a proselyte to them.—I must however observe that you have made a considerable approach towards them, at least so far as I am concerned to wish you to do, particularly in allowing that all our Ideas of Sensible things are the Effects of the Actions of Something on our Minds external to them, & that Resistance is an Action.—You Suppose indeed an Active Medium which you call matter intervening between the Deity & our Minds perceiving, to the Action of which in perceiving they are passive; which, (tho' I am not clear in it,) does not affect me, so long as you allow all action throughout All sensible Nature to derive originally from Him.

I doubt I expressed my Self Some how very carelessly, otherwise you could not have Inferred from what I wrote that I “attribute *all Action* immediately to the Almighty Spirit.” I meant only all the Actions in Sensible Nature or the Actions external to us which produce in our Minds the Ideas of Sense & Imagination: but I was far from meaning that there are no other Actions besides those of the Deity: For this would be in effect to deny the moral Agency & Consequently the Existence of Created Spirits. This would sap the Foundation of Morality sure enough, & would be at least as bad as Spinosisism.—Bp Berkeley, any more than I, never doubted, but strongly established the Existence & Agency not only of the Deity, but of other inferiour created Spirits, free Agents, capable of, & subject to Moral Government.—all he contends for is, That there are no other than two sorts of Beings the One intelligent & self-Active; the other meerly senseless & passive. That the Spirits, viz The Deity & created Intelligences alone are the Active Beings, & the Objects of Sense alone are meerly passive. And that there is no medium either Active or passive intervening between the Deity & our minds or their Ideas,

which he takes to be Impressions or perceptions immediately produced by him on our minds, but not so as at all to necessitate their choice or Actions, which he leaves intirely Free.—These I take to be the first principles of his System.— But however at a loss you may be about his peculiar Notions, there is a very pretty Book published in England in 1745 Called *Dialogues concerning Education*. being a plan for training up the Youth of both Sexes in Learning & Virtue, which I have lately seen & long to have you read it, & in which I dont doubt we should perfectly agree.—I have recommended it to Mr Statford of N. York to procure Several Copies of it to dispose of in the Country, for I do not think we could put a better thing into the hands of our Children.—It is the prettyest thing in its kind, & the best System—both in physical Metaphysical & moral philosophy as well as the Conduct of Life that I have ever Seen. I remain

S^r

your most obliged
humble Servant

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

My Dear

I was fully resolv'd to have come home with our children at this time with Curtise & they have been these two or three days taking leave of their friends for this purpose But when I mentioned my Design of my Daughters going home to the Gov^r without saying any thing with respect to myself he immediately answer'd that He thought it very wrong in me to send them in the way of the Mutineers at this time till we were assured of the mutiny's being over And as I thought this may increase both your & my concern & uneasiness I have at last resolv'd to wait the return of an express which set out yesterday for Albany & is to return with all speed after having made the Gov^{rs} resolution known of paying the whole

pay on certain conditions which if comply'd with must put an end to all the Disorders there & quiet the Country for the future. I was before so uneasy as to the mutiny that I had thoughts of sending for you & the Children to town & therefor you will not wonder that I so suddenly changed my resolution of the time Jenny Alsie expected to go on board And you must keep your self & the Children in readiness to come away for this place in case you have any account of the Mutineers marching downwards from Albany for they have openly threatened to take their pay in plunder wherever they go & if once they begin such kind of work none can tell what other outrages they may be guilty off. The only doubt which now remains is whether they will entirely comply with the conditions proposed for if they do not the Gov^r can not justify his paying them any thing & certainly he will not whatever be the consequence. I send Cadwallader his Commission along with this & he must hold himself in readiness to go up about a week hence at which time he will receive his Instructions & I expect to bring them my self & give him what further private advice may be necessary. The Gov^r has receiv'd an address from the Corporation of New York with complements to him on his administration an account of which I expect will be in the Newspapers & has made a good deal of talk in this Town being so very different from what comes from the assembly. What is remarkable in this address is that it comes from the Magistrates chosen by the People annually & the Mayor who is appointed by the Gov^r went out of town & did not attend & they in the opposition made the Deputy Mayor Drunk that he could not attend the common council at the time they had agreed to deliver their address

I have been the more easy in the sudden resolution of not suffering Jenny & Alsie to go up at this time because I could by no means go with them the affair of the Mutiny making my stay at this time absolutely necessary & they must have gon up without any company in the sloop & by their stay I have good reason to hope to go

with them Besides that I think it hardly possible but the Dispatches from England must reach us in a few days & you must be sensible of what consequence it may be to my self to be here at that time. You must not talk any where of the apprehensions I am under from the Mutiny. Jenny & Alsie are both abroad & since I told Curtise that they are not to go with him & the wind being fair he will not stay for their writing which I hitherto trusted to & therefor you must excuse your not being informed of all that perhaps you expected from them. I cannot forbear repeating to you to take care of your self that nothing may allay our pleasure at meeting I am

Your most affectionate
CADWALLADER COLDEN

NEW YORK June 7th
1747

What is don with respect to the Soldiers at Albany is with the Unanimous consent of the Council & perhaps the only thing that has been don so for some time

[Indorsed]

To
Mrs COLDEN at
Coldenham.

From Thomas Osborne

S^r

My very good friend M^r Peter Collinson, was so kind as to give me the Offer of the History of the five Indian Nations, And knowing Your great good Character Induced me to print it, And I do not doubt, but with Your Assistance I shall meet with Success in it, I have by M^r Collinson's recommendation, sent fifty of them to M^r James Read at Philadelphia, with some other Book's which I should take as a favour if you would recommend, And If I shou'd find Encouragement, I should be glad if you would putt me in a way of Trading in Your Part of the World.

If you have any Thoughts of making any further Edi-

tion to the Five Indian Nation's, I should be glad to have it as soon as possible, and I shall be very ready to give you Encouragement, in Proportion I shall receive from the former volume, but should be glad if you would bring it as low as possible, and add some of your Neighbouring Nations to it.

Generall Oglethorpe has promised to give me great help for the other Indian Nation's, and he was so kind as to over look your Manuscript, and Approved it very much, I am

S^r
Y^r most obed^t: Humble Serv^t
THO: OSBORNE

June 12th 1747

From Peter Collinson on Same Letter as Above :

M^r Osborn has presented you with Twelve Coppys which I shall send ☞ first ship

Y^{rs} P COLLINSON

[Indorsed]

To
The Honourable CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r
at New York
☞ Cap^t TIFFIN
via Pensilvania

From Governor George Clinton

FORT FREDERICK 8th July 1747

Sir

I have had y^e devil & all to pay here with the new Levyes & Indians as to y^e first it was but last Monday y^t I could get y^e Captains into any manner of agreement Severall insisting y^t I had received orders from home to pay them y^e first two Months Musters was their due according to y^e rules of y^e Army & abundance more,

Honyman at the head, they are at last convinced & are preparing their Muster Rolls for payment but when I sett out is uncertain but intend as soon as possible I can in order to meet y^e Assembly in order engage our neighbours to drive y^e French back & if possible to take or demolish Crown Point.

Coll^l Johnson came down last Thursday & with him Lucas, Moses & about 20 more Indians, who spoke to me & next day cheafly insisting to know y^e meaning why the Army is not arrived as I assured them last meeting, that I had drawn them into an Indian War & they did not see any Force I had to Saive them from being destroyed by their inveterate Enimie y^e French & their Indians & a great deal more, which I was to answer on Saterdag but hearing Henrick was coming down I deferr'd it to hear what he had to say & answer them at Once, finding Henrick did not come, I sent an order to Captⁿ Mackintosh to send a Guard with him & on Monday in y^e afternoon he came with about 20 More, and Yesterday morning I had about 30 of them in my little parlour just over y^e Kitchen & a Monstrous hot day, they came about ½ past nine & did not leave me till nigh One, Coll^l Johnson told me over night that Henrick proposed to be very loud & Speak very plainly to me as if I had deceived them, upon Johnson & Stevens telling him it would not be proper before the others he promised not, but to tell me my own in privitt, but after I deliver'd my answer, notwithstanding his promise he began and was exceeding angry indeed & very impertinant y^t I was hardly able to bear him, he call'd upon y^e Mohawks & told them I had drawn them & him into y^e War & y^t he was come down to see y^e Army, instead of seeing y^t He found they were betrayed, y^t the French no sooner proposed anything but they Set about it & then hit me in y^e Teeth of Sarahtoga & severall other things & our not making any head against this Army, As for his part he would leave his Castle & take all his people with him & so we parted in a sort of a pett, I told him I was come up to settle the Army & to give him all

y^e assistance I could & would have assistance from my Neighbours if I found there was occasion for it but all did not signifie, about six a Clock in y^e Evining Aaron Stevens came up to me to tell me Henrick wanted to Speak with me in privitt I told him as he had Said in publick what he was to say to me in privitt, I would have nothing to say to him but at last I thought it as well to hear what he had to Say, but y^e Scene was greatly changed for he was all goodness & we parted the best friends y^t ever was, and did everything but hug & kiss & he was quite sober as do them justice they every one was, I was forced to fill y^e dogs pockitts, They all leave me God be praised this afternoon, & then I shall sett to my other affairs, I have given orders to Johnson to go directly to work to build a Fort at Conojohare & this I ordered before Henrick asked it.

I am glad to hear Miss Colden is quite recovered at York & hope Mrs Colden & family are well We all here joyn in Complm^{ts} and am

Sir

Your very humble Ser^t

G CLINTON

I have just received an Acct y^t Connecticut Governm^t has Marched 400 men to this Frontier & New Hampshire to 700, & Mr Shirley has ordered his Troops to assist us in case the Stroke should come this way, expecting y^e Same in return & perticulary to assist y^e Mohawks with Men & build Forts for them at y^e Same time is endeavouring to fling all this upon me, something must be done soon & it is absolutely Necessary for me to meet y^e Assembly to recommend tho' I dont expect much, tho it is absolutely necessary for them to do something now or niver, for we durst not pretend to send out any party unless a very strong one and we have not been able to get any intelligence from Sarahtoga since these people went & most people are of an opinion that they are building a Magazine for stores & provisions for their Sculking Partyes at Carrying place That what I have to say must

require your assistance & I desire you will be at your Sons House by the 16th Inst when I shall call to take you in, it is unavoidable I therefore desire you will not faile,
[Indorsed]

To
CONWALD COLDEN Esq^r
To be left at his Sons.

Gov. Clinton's Meeting With the Indians

July 16 1747

ATT A MEETING of the Mohawks with his Excell^{ty} BROTHER we come down as a Guard to our good friend Coll^o Johnson, and finding you here were very glad of the Opportunity, of seeing, & speaking to you. for there has been a time, & not long since that we Were afraid of Seeing, or Speaking to our Brethren. & that Occasioned by the doings of some Vile people as we are now sensible, but their fears are all vanished, & drove away by the strong Assurances You have given us Last Summer, & ever since of your good Meaning towards us——

BROTHER you told us Last Fall that you Were at War with a Cruel Enemy the French, who daily murdered Your people round about. Upon which we heartily renewed the old Covenant, or Agreement between you, & us, in so much that whatever Good or Evil happens, to the one, Happens to the other. You gave us then the Ax, to use against your Enemies & told us, you Expected soon to destroy Canada with your Army, we took up the Ax, & promised to use it against your Enemies, in Conjunction wth you——

BROTHER we have since sent out by Coll^o Johnson to Canada, to Annoy the Enemy. & get Prisoners, to give us News of all their Motions, while your Army might be getting ready, All this we have done to shew our heartiness to Join & assist you, even with the loss of Severall of our Chief & Principle Warriours, who dyed lately for their Broth^s Cause Wherefore BROTHER we expect you will not make peace upon any terms Until

we fully Revenge the deaths of all our Brethren which we are ready, & Have been this long time to do had we but your Assistance.—

But BROTHER we are afraid you are not in Earnest, for no other reason, then that we dont see you do anything with your Army as we Expected, & hop'd for—

BROTHER we are at present oblig'd to Acquaint You, that our Brethren the Conajoharees are much Exposed to the Enemy, wherefore desire earnestly that you would Immediately fortifie them, & when that is done thy nor We cannot possible do, without a Number of Brisk Men, to be ready always to Jump out, & Join Us in pursueing & destroying the Enemy, whenever thy Invade you or Us for which purpose if You allow us but Men to be ready at a Call, we will engage to perform.—

BROTHER that will be the only best means to Satisfie all our friends, & Allies, the far distant Nations (who daily flock to us, & offer their Service when we Call upon them) that we are Capable of defending ourselves & Annoying our Enemy in some Measure, Untill the Army may be ready to March, which is what we most Earnestly wish for

BRETHREN I am pleas'd with your Gratitude of Coll^o Johnson in Conducting him to Albany, & thank God who has preserved our Lives to this day, & given us an Opportunity of Speaking face to face: 'tis true I did not expect to Meet you here, but am glad of the Occasion to Commend your Fidelity, & good Service since you Joyn'd us against our Enemies; Your fears are now over, & you may be for ever assur'd of my Good intentions towards you, do you but Proceed Briskly as you have began, & you may depend upon all the Encouragement, & Protection in my Power; I am now Come to put Our People in as good Orders as I can, either to Receive or March Out against the Enemy, & as I propose never to deny you assistance, in Return I expect you will be harty to go out With us When call'd upon.—I am much Concern'd at the Loss of some of your Principle Men, & hope by our Mutuall Assistance we Shall get Sat-

isfaction for them before we bury the Hatchet—Our Brethren the Conajoharees you say are Expos'd, I have Given Orders to Coll^o Johnson to fortifie their Castle as soon as Possible, & shall order a sufficient Number of Men for their defence, which may Convince you & all our Friends, & Allies, that I am in Earnest, & you may be Assur'd your Safety shall be my Particular Study. Brethren my Resolution is stedfast, & am Now bringing my People to be ready to Join yours, & act as one Body, and Expect you will use your Endeavours to the same Effect among your People, of whatever Nation, that we may live & dye together—I most earnestly recommend to you, not to Listen to any Reports or any thing said to you, beside what you Hear from Coll^o Johnson, whom you may depend shall repeat to You all the Intelligence I can give him in Return I expect you Will make report to him, of every thing you hear as Well what Relates to your own Affairs, as concerning the Enemy & their Motions, that he may Inform me. Thus it is to live & act Like Brothers, & Convince the World we are inseperable—

BROTHER as to your desireing us to listen to Our Good friend Coll^o Johnson, we are oblig'd to You for it, & in Answer thereto, must tell you that for these twelve Months past, & better we have Minded nor listned to no Body Else; neither do we intend it; And BROTHER you may depend upon it, that whatever News we have among Us, shall be immediately brought to him, In order that He may Acquaint you of it, In Return we Expect you will continue to do the same. As You have don this year past. & then the World shall be Convinced that we are one Body, & inseperable.

Copy of the Chief Justice Plan July 29 1747

[In Colden's handwriting]

If the Fort at Croun Point be to be attacked this season The Forces intended for that Enterprise should

be on their March thither on or before the 1st of Septⁿ next

It should be given out that the Design is against Montreal & to be carried on by the way of the lake Champlain & by the way of the lake Ontario & so down St Lawrence of The Massachusets bay the 1500 men & of Connecticut the 1000 with a body of 6 or 700 Indians to go against Crown point this it is thought will be a force sufficient for this purpose The New York Levies with 2 or 300 Indians to proceed to Oswego & to attack the French Forts on the lake Ontario The Advantages of this Method are evident as it will oblige the French to divide their Forces or constrain them to stay at Montreal & thereby greatly facilitate the reduction of Crown point

Taking Crown point will drive the Ennemy farther from our Borders & incourage the Indians to act more vigorously agt the French & their Indian dependents

Destroying the French Forts on the lake Ontario will break the Course of their trade & be a means to bring the far nations of Indians into a dependance on the Brittish Interest & by proper managem^t into a war against the French The consequence of which would be the driving the French into their Touns & destroying most of their Settlements

The Expençe of each of their levies to be born by the respective Colonies

Cadwallader Colden to Benjamin Franklin

NEW YORK Aug 3^d 1747

S^r

Baxters [book?] was gon so much out of my memory that I could not for some time recollect any thing of it I cannot now recollect whether I sent back your observations on it if I have not they are among my papers which I carried to the Country & are now there I can remember that when I look^t into that book I thought that he

did not understand the subject on which he treated as appear'd to me from several passages in the book. As soon as I return home I shall look carefully for the papers you sent but what they were I do not at present remember please therefor to assist my memory.

Some Gentⁿ here are desirous to go on Electrical experiments We hear that you have the whole apparatus sent over from England They would purchase the like if they can be made at Philadelphia from what you have sent to you. Please to let me know whether any of your Artists can do it & what may be the price. I am

S^r Your most obliged humble servant

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

From Peter Collinson

LOND Aug: 3:1747.

My Dear Friend

I have taken the first opportunity to Send you a Sample of your Indian History the Dedication was made without my Leave or consent w^{ch} makes mee uneasie, I was out of Town & M^r Osbourn was in hast to publish & so it happen'd or Else the thson I should have Choozen would have been Lord Lonsdale

Pray does M^r Barclay continue amongst the Indians, would he not be a proper thson to give us some account of Their notions of y^e Diety & Futurity; who can enough admire his Christian Resolution the Almighty power that has Kindled such a Noble Ardour on his Soul, no doubt will Bless his Pious Endeavours Some Hints of his proceedings & Success of his Mission will be very Acceptable to Mee the progress of Piety & Vertue fills my Mind with Joye unspeakable

I was agreeably delighted with thine of may the 11th & I hope Bryants arrival will Establish my Credit—I am not yett able to Send any remarks on Thy Cause of Gravitation in Short I find the more it is Examined the

more they are at a Loss what too offer & so in Short Say nothing—but tho Wee are Silent yett the oppertunities I have Lately had of Sending it to most of the Capital places & universities in Europe—I thswade my Self Some or other will at Last Saye Something for it or against It I communicated thy Last Scheme to our Principle People in that Branch of Science & from one of them I Reced the Enclosed—but it is now with M^r Jones, what I hear further I will Report with Candour

Butt I omitted giving a hint of the Malevolent Temper of a Certain great Mathematiⁿ amongst us on Reading thy Tract on Gravitation—He Sayes—

I am amazed how this Book got to New York, for I am satisfied it came originally from Hence and was once under a Cover with other things—& the pacquet has been Gutted—

This poor Man is a Little touched in his pericranium So *That*, I hope will Excuse Him

Our people at the Helm are so taken up with Raiseing Supples for the Warr & Choosing a New Parliam^t that they hav't time to Think of you

As I told you before—your Gov^{rs} recommending you to his Majesties Favour I take to be Meer Amusement When any place becomes Vacant in y^r Govern^t or any other Government or in the Customes, that is fitt for you or y^r Son then Try y^r Great Man & See the Effect of his promises—He finds He cannot do without you & now he carresses you with Fair Speeches, but pray remember his first behaviour then you was not worthy his Least Notice—This you may Excuse but cannot forget So you will keep in with Him as He does with you for Interest, & this is the faith that is to be Kept with Courtiers—untill they appear of a Different Cast of Mind & then Wee will receive them into our Bossoms.

Your Good Broth^r has two Sons Hopefull men now in Town, He reserves a Little Money in my Hands to Supply them if they Want as I had a very Safe oppertunity as I thought by Goverⁿ Balcher in his pacquet I

sent you your Brothers Discharge which I hope will come Safe

If you write by bitts & starts so must I or Else not write at all, as Such you have the Sincere Endeavours
of y^r Affectionate fr^d

P COLLINSON

Mr Jones Sends mee this Short Observation

Mr Colden is Mistaken in every part of his Conjectures, He mistakes Doc^r Bradley as to the principle

[Indorsed]

To

CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq^r

Coldingham

New York.

[Copy of same letter as the one above but with an additional P. S. as follows.]

From another Person I receiv'd this—

I am thankfull for Mr Coldens Paper, but to consider it thro' out will take more Time than I can conveniently spare, I shall only observe to you that I think he has mistaken Doc^r Bradley, and therefore charged him with an Error in the first Foundation of his Theory, and which it appears to me that Mr Colden has fallen into, from his not considering, that the Parallax is either insensible or very inconsiderable in different Parts of the Earths Orbit, his whole Objection and which he calls Doc^r Bradleys Slip is entirely founded on this—

Oct^b 20th 1747

I rece^d your Last with the Queries which I shall answer in Due Time I have yours of July 24th under Consideration I wish you could Carry the point you Wish but the Secretarys of State are to taken up with the Embarrasments of our thsent uncertain Situation that Little notice can be taken of Colony affairs

*Cadwallader Colden to Mrs. Colden*NEW YORK Aug 3^d 1747

My Dear

Tho' you have not wrote to me I cannot let this opportunity slip without a line to you & tho' I cannot give you any particular information either of my stay or return We have had several meetings in Council but I cannot say that we have made any great advance in our resolutions nor what is like to be the event but we cannot continue long under uncertainties but must resolve something In the mean time I can assure you that I am in perfect health Many Children dye at this time but I hear of nothing unusual among elderly people or those grown up We have no kind of News from any part They seem to be more quiet at Albany than for some time past. Dr Bard's son is very ill of a lingering fever. Pray my Dear take care of your self & let me have frequently or as often as you can the pleasure to hear that you are in health & cheerfull I am pleas'd with what you have order'd for Alice If that do not remove the uneasiness at her Stomack I would have her try the Tar Water at night & to ride out daily before noon while it is cool. James Monel carried up what I directed for James McNeal five pills are to be made of every half dram & he is to take at first two every night & increase the number till they keep his body open If they purge above 3 times in the 24 hours he must stop & lessen the number of pills He is to drink a Decoction of Pine tops after them All our acquaintance are well

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

[Indorsed]

To
MRS. COLDEN
at
Coldenham.

From Benjamin Franklin

PHILAD^a Aug^t 6 1747.

Sir

The Observations I sent you on Baxter's Book were wrote on a Sheet or two of Paper in Folio. He builds his whole Argument on the Vis Inertiæ of Matter: I boldly deny'd the Being of such a Property, and endeavour'd to demonstrate the contrary. If I succeeded, all his Edifice falls of course, unless some other way Supported. I desir'd your Sentiments of my Argument. You left the Book for me at N York, with a few Lines containing a short Censure of the Author; and that your Time had been much taken up in Town with Business, but you was now about to retire into the Country, where you should have Leisure to peruse my Papers; since which I have heard nothing from you relating to them. I hope you will easily find them, because I have lost my rough Draft; but don't give yourself much Trouble about them; for if they are lost, 'tis really no great Matter.

I am glad to hear that some Gentlemen with you are enclin'd to go on Electrical Experiments. I am satisfy'd we have Workmen here, who can make the Apparatus as well to the full as that from London; and they will do it reasonably. By the next Post I will send you their Computation of the Expence: If you shall conclude to have it done here, I will oversee the Work, and take Care that every Part be done to perfection, as far as the Nature of the Thing admits.

Instead of the Remainder of my Rough Minutes on Electricity, (which are indeed too rough for your View) I send you enclos'd Copies of two Letters I lately wrote to M^r Collinson on that Subject. When you have perus'd them, please to leave them with M^r Nichols, who I shall desire to forward them ☞ next Post to a Friend in Connecticut.

I am glad your Philosophical Treatise meets with so good Reception in England. M^r Collinson writes the

same Things to M^r Logan; and M^r Rose of Virginia writes me, that he had receiv'd Accounts from his Correspondents to the same Purpose. I long to see some of their Observations on it. I perceive by the Papers, that they have also lately reprinted in London, your History of the Five Nations in 8^{vo} If 'tis come to your Hands, I should be glad to have a Sight of it.

M^r Logan, on a Second Reading of your Piece on Fluxions, lately, is satisfied, that some of the Faults he formerly objected to it, were his own, and owing to his too little Attention at that Time; he desires me to tell you so, and that he ask your Pardon. Upon what M^r Collinson wrote, he again undertook to read and consider your Philosophical Treatise: I have not seen him Since, but I shall soon, and will send you his Sentiments. I am, Sir, with great Respect,

Your most humble Serv^t

B FRANKLIN

*The Answer from the River Indians to the Five Nations,
to a Message Deliver'd to Them Augst 10 1747*

UNCLE, I went some time ago to acquaint you of the loss of one of the Principal of our Young Men, Kill'd by the Enemy; & in answer you inform'd me by a string of Wampum, that you had lost by the Enemy fourteen of your People, where of four were of your Chiefs. I thank you for this Information. . . .

UNCLE You further tell me, that you remember about three years ago, I came to treat wth you, at your Castle, & yⁿ desired, that I would think of the old Agreement made by our Forefathers; which was that if any thing happened to the One, it happened to the other, & that we might live & dye together; now I thank you for this Information. . . .

UNCLE You also tell me, that as we are now Joined in the War with our Brethren the English, & having

lost Severall of our people on both sides, You are fully resolved & determined to fall on the Enemy with all your might now I thank you for this Information. . . .

UNCLE, again you tell me, that having considered Seriously of my Message & also acquainted me wth your loss you desire me to go on with all my Force against y^e Enemy & by a Belt of Wampum you assure me that you will always keep up to the old Agreement made by our Forefathers, & that we are inseparable, till death; I thank you for this Information. . . .

UNCLE, You tell me, you desire me for fear of a mischance to wear a rid string, tyed to the Crown of my Head that we may know one another in the Wood Now I thank you for this Information. . . .

Answer to Another Lately Rec^d

UNCLE, you tell me you sent your regards to me certifying me of the Old Agreement entered into by our Forefathers & that the Messages from each other perfectly harmonise & are one: I thank you that you tell me so:

UNCLE, you tell me your Town is full of evil: & all besmear'd with Blood: you have done kindly to inform me of this

UNCLE, you tell me that wherever you see y^e Frenchmans Son, [meaning French Indians in general] you make War upon him; & wherever you see y^e French man himself, you make War upon him. I thank you for this Information.

UNCLE, You tell me, wherever I see the French Mans Son I must make War upon him; & that wherever I meet wth the Frenchman I must make War upon him I thank you for this Message.

UNCLE, In answer to my enquiry how we should prevent Mistakes in our Wars, You tell me, if I see any Body I must ask Who are you & if he presently Answers I am from Conajoharee then you must Smoke together: but if Shall say I am a Frenchman, then you must immediately fight him. I thank you for this.

You tell me you have already sent this Message to

Our Friends as farr as to the Shouwunnooes, & that you
Now send it to me here at Wunnuhhqtuhook. I thank
you for this Information

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

My Dear

NEW YORK Aug 12th 1747

I was at West Chester when yours came to my lodging whither I went on Munday morning & return'd yesterday. Betty & the Children are all very well She poor Woeman is very big but as well otherwise as can be expected. I have not time to write largely Only I must tell you that my return home cannot be so soon as I expected last time I wrote & now I cannot set any time for it The Gov^r has sent an express to Boston after the arival of the Man of War from England When that express returns perhaps we may have more News than now is publick Catherwood may be soon expected by a ship which was to go to Cape Breton soon after this man of War sail'd which is come in. Next time I write probably I can tell you more News Remember me affectionately to our Children I am in perfect health tho the Weather is extremely hot

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

I hear of nothing that need give me any reason to be uneasy but rather otherwise

[Indorsed]

To

Mrs COLDEN at
Coldenham.

Clinton to the Corporation of the City of New York

[In the handwriting of Cadwallader Colden]

As the ease & safety of the people of this Province has been my constant care you may be assured that I would have cheerfully complied with your request at this time without delay but the present Disposition of the Forces

at Albany requires some time to consider in what manner it can be don without prejudice to his Majesty's Service As soon as it can be you may assure your selves it shall be complied with.

Gentⁿ You know what difficulties I have had to struggle with for twelve months past the manner therefor wherein you express your Sentiments of my administration cannot but be very acceptable to me at this time as you are the representatives of the Metropolis of this Province & the seat of Government & annually chosen by the People I have reason to think that you truly represent them in your Sentiments & since your doing it at this time cannot fail of being of some use to his Majesty's service I return you my thanks for this address.

From Benjamin Franklin

Sir

I am glad the electrical Observations please you. I leave them in your hands another Week. Our Workmen have undertaken the Electrical Apparatus, and I believe will do it extremely well: It being a new Job they cannot Say exactly what their Work will come to, but they will charge reasonably when done, and they find what Time it has taken. I suppose the whole will not exceed ten or twelve Pounds.—

I send you Enclos'd the Advertisement of the History of the 5 Nations—

We are told here, that Gov. Belcher has brought Orders to disband the Forces raised for the Expedition against Canada; you know before this Time whether this is true, and whether the Expedition is postpon'd only, or the Thoughts of it entirely laid aside.

I am, Sir, with great Respect

Your most hum^e Serv^t

Philad^a Aug^t. 13. 1747

B FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To

The hon^{ble}. CAD^R COLDEN Esq^r New York
Free B FRANKLIN

BY the Commrs for executing the Office
of Lord High admiral of
Great Britain and Ireland & c^a.

TO The President of the Council of New York for the
Time being.

By Virtue of the Power and Authority to us given by
Act of Parliament made in the first Year of the Reign
of King William and Queen Mary, entitled an Act for
abrogating the oaths of Supremacy, and Allegiance, and
appointing other Oaths; We do hereby empower, and
depute you, to administer the Oaths and Test appointed
by Act of Parliament to the Honble George Clinton Esq^r
before you deliver to him the Commission herewith sent
you, appointing him admiral of the White Squadron of
His Majesty's Fleet; and you are to return to this Board
his Subscription of the said Test, together with a Cer-
tificate under your hand of his having taken the said
Oaths. Given under our hands and the seal of the Office
of admiralty this 14th Day of August 1747.

VERE BEAUCLERK
[GEORGE] ANSON
W[ELBORE] ELLIS

By Command of their Lordships.
E. J. CLEVELAND.

From John Bartram

August y^e 16th 1747.

Esteemed Friend

I have received thy kind letter of July y^e 27 by y^e
hands of our worthy friend B. F. I have nothing new to
acquaint thee with I have received two letters from
Gronovius concerning several Curiosities which I sent
to him he mentions A Curious book which he hath sent
me which he calls y^e Fauna medica wrote by Lineus but
I have not received it yet—y^e worm seed y^t Docter Bard

tould thee of is what is called chenopodium Botris or oak of Jerusalem it grows very naturally to y^e southward; if thee hath it not I can easily put A vew seeds in A letter whereby thee may soon raise enough I want some seeds of y^e arbor Vita & y^e paper birch which grow on y^e katts kill mountains y^e seeds of both is ripe near y^e same time—I have delayed longer writeing to thee in hopes of A ship coming from London whereby I might perhaps have picked out some curious observations from some of my letters that might have rendered this letter more agreeable: however I hope thee will believe that I am thy Sincear

Friend JOHN BARTRAM

[Indorsed]

To

Doctor

CADWALADER COLDEN

These.

Committee of Council Report, August 26, 1747

At a Committee of Council

Present

Mr. Livingston

M^r Chief Justice

M^r Horsmanden

M^r Murray

M^r Moore.

May it please Your Excellency

Your Excellency was pleased on Saturday last to deliver some Particulars in Writing to the Council, for their Consideration, Which were referred to a Committee of the whole Council or any five of them, The Council met the same Evening, & not having had Copies, were of Opinion they should be made out next Morning & deliver'd to the Members, that they might consider of the several matters contained therein, against their next meeting; which was appointed for the night following, when the Committee again met, but as most of the Com-

mittee did not receive their Copies till the meeting, They had not a sufficient time for Consideration, but however the Committee entered into the Matters referred to them; & were all of Opinion (at least no Opposition was made) that it would be necessary before they could form a Judgment, to beg some further information of your Excellency, as to the three first points, & accordingly directed Mr Horsmanden their Chairman, to apply to your Excellency for it, who return^d us for Answer, That "You have sufficient Authority for what you said in that Paper, & that you are only accountable to his Majesty for what you do, And that whatever your Excellency thinks proper to communicate to the Council, The Council are to take it upon your Word."

Upon this Answer, We humbly beg leave to observe to your Excellency how widely you have mistaken the Intention of the Committee, into whose Thoughts it never entered to call your Excellency to account, We knew your Excellency is accountable to his Majesty, & as our Duty is to his Majesty we leave it. But surely S^r if the Council, or the Committee of the whole Council conceive, that there is any obscurity in what your Excellency delivers, or that you are able to furnish them with further Helps, to inform their Judgements, upon things referred to them, it is proper for them to apply to your Excellency; & this application, as the Committee conceives, can in no sense be misconstrued, or misrepresented as a Calling your Excellency to account: & to clear our Selves from any misrepresentation of that kind, We take the Liberty to let your Excellency know the reason on which we proceed.

Your Excellency says "You likewise must observe to the Council, that you can not any longer find provisions for the Forces at Albany, either of the Independent Companies, nor New Levies, nor continue the Expence the Crown has been put to, for securing the Fidelity of the Indians, or for sending out parties of them, either as Out-Scouts or to annoy the Enemy."

As your Excellency has for a considerable time past

found Provisions for some of the New Levies at Albany, not raised in this Province, & put the Crown to a great Expence, for securing the Fidelity of the Indians, it was natural for the Committee to desire to be informed by your Excellency, whether you had Orders from his Majesty to decline it now; for if your Excellency has not been disavowed in what you have done, the same Reasons which at first prevailed with you to undertake it, might be of Weight with you to continue it, which we humbly conceive was a good Reason for the Committee, to pray for some further Light, to guide their Judgments, & without which, it is hardly possible for the Committee to form any Opinion.

Upon the whole, the Committee are humbly of Opinion as to the first point, that as M^r Shirley & M^r Knowles are to meet together, to advise as to the Disposition of the Forces levied on the Expedition against Canada, It would be advisable for your Excellency to write to them in the most pressing terms representing the danger that would attend the removal of all the Levies, from this Province, & we make no doubt but that on a full Representation it will plainly appear to them, to be so evidently for his Majesty's Service, to continue at least the Levies raised in this Province, that we cannot doubt from those Gentlemens Capacity, & Knowledge, they will be of Opinion to continue them in this Province, & dispose of them in such Manner as is of most advantage to his Majesty's Service.

As to the second & third Points, your Excellency may observe the Committee cannot come to an Opinion without further Light.

As to the fourth, your Excellency says, "you expect that great Numbers of the distant Indians, are now with Coll Johnson, their meeting with a disappointment in their Expectations at this time may be of the most fatal Consequence."

The Committee beg leave to observe, that as your Excellency must have expected those Indians to be now with Co^l Johnson, They can not but think your Exel-

lency had before made suitable provisions for that Event, & that therefore they cannot meet with or dissapointment of their Expectations.

As to the fifth & last point, respecting the State of the Garrison at Saraghtoga, the Committee are at a loss what to advise, they being altogether strangers to any thing relating to it, Your Excellency not having vouchsafed to communicate to the Council any particulars upon that Head.

Before we conclude, we are under a necessity to observe to your Excellency, that this Day at 10 o'Clock in the Morning, was appointed to prepare a Report upon the several particulars referred to us; The Gentlemen who have the Honour to be most in your Excellency's Confidence, & from whom we might have expected some Light, did not attend, upon which the Committee were obliged to adjourn 'till this afternoon at 4 of the Clock, with directions that the absent Members should be summoned, who were accordingly summoned, & one still absent; The committee therefore humbly submit this their Report to your Excellency, as the best they are able to make under their present disadvantages

By order of the Council

DAN: HORSMANDEN. *Chairman*

Council Chamber
City of New York
26 August 1747.

Cadwallader Colden to Mrs Colden

NEW YORK Munday Aug 24 1747

My Dear

Inclosed is a letter from Betty which gives me a good deal of concern Lady Waren goes out to morrow to see her & I have sent out a letter to Greenwich to go by her I heartily wish one of the Girls were with her but I have wrote to her of Johny's being ill & of the

danger of the Measles getting into the family & the distress in that case you must be under at this time when it is hardly possible I can be at home or out of town the publick affairs are become so pressing I have my health perfectly well I send up the check linnen & saddle lace & have sent out for Sole leather If it can be got it will go up I have a letter from Cad by an express & one to his Brother which I shall send up I am much hurried if I can get a litle more time before the sloop goes I may enlarge further The sole leather is got & goes up 13½ pound at 1s ³/₄ lb. marked c c 13½ in chalk I shall be very uneasy to hear from you on account of the Measles Mr Tucker Mrs Hanson Mrs Tucker go up with this & propose to stay till Mr & Mrs Nicholls go next trip with Courtse You know we are obliged to take all the notice we can of that family & as I believe you will do it with pleasure I hope it will give you some diversion in my absence. Affairs draw to a Crisis they cannot continue long in the state they are in but I cannot be more particular I write some News to Alex^r which I have no time to write to you

My Love to all the Children

Your most affectionate

CADWALLADER COLDEN.

[Indorsed]

To
Mrs COLDEN at
Coldenham.

From Benjamin Franklin

PHILAD^a Sept. 24, 1747.

Sir

I have one of your Histories come in among some Books Sent me ³/₄ Mr Strahan. But Osborne I understand has sent 50 to Mr Read ³/₄ Recommendation of Mr Collinson. I should sell them more readily than he can, I imagine; and he talks of putting them into my hands. Are any of them arriv'd in N York?

Enclos'd are two Letters for you. No others are yet come to hand; but perhaps we shall find more when the Ship is unloaded; for M^r Collinsons Letters are often in Trunks among Goods, &c.—I should be glad to know if M^r Darling, by whom I wrote a Line to you, had my Paper on Electricity, I am

Sir,

Your most hum^l Serv^t

B. FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To

The hon^{ble} CADWALADER COLDEN Esq
New York

Free

B FRANKLIN

Cadwallader Colden to Sir Peter Warren

[Copy]

NEW YORK Sept^r 26 1747

S^r

I hope you believe that none has with more pleasure heard the Accounts of your repeated Successes in the Service of your King & Country than I have & of the honours you have receiv'd from both as due to your Merit I heartily congratulate with you on this subject & in the many opportunities you are like to have of discovering your abilities & thereby of fixing the Love of your Country & the esteem of your King on the surest foundation that of true heroic Merit.

I am sorry that I cannot send you accounts from this part of the World that can in any manner correspond with the Actions with which you have fill'd all our news papers It is to be fear'd that every thing from America will appear too much otherwise except what has been done by your Nephew Col Johnson who by his Negotiations & Interest with the Indians has exceeded all our Expectations & has with indefatigable labour & pains don as much for the safety of the Brittish Colonies in north

America as any one man in them It is with pleasure I think that I have been of some use to him but otherwise as to my own part I am heartily sorry that I have been obliged to have any share in the publick affairs at this time & which I pray you'll give me leave to tell you was far from being by my own choice My thoughts were entirely form'd upon another plan as you know I had retired to the Country & were to be executed in Solitude of which the publick has receiv'd some instances When the orders came to make preparations for an Expedition to Canada The Gov^r sent me a formal summons to attend the Council which in my Station I could not refuse neither could I refuse to give my advice when demanded according to my Judgement of things which however I must confess has so far fail'd that many things have happen'd which I did not expect & I must likewise acknowledge that tho I have lived to very near sixty years compleat & a considerable part of that time in public business yet till very lately I was unacquainted with some Characters of men. You know S^r the men & manners of this country I am in some measure known to you let me beg of you not to loose any esteem you had for me till you are assured I deserve that punishment either by acting contrary to his Majesties Interest or the rules observ'd by men of honour & while I do so I hope to have your favour continued It is with much reluctancy that I give you the trouble of the latter part of this letter & therefore I shall only add that you will give me the greatest pleasure by furnishing me with any means of serving you or of contributing in any manner to your amusement or that of your friends for that I am much otherwise & more than in the usual stile

S^r

Your most obedient
& most humble servt

To S^r P WARREN

From Benjamin Franklin

PHILAD^a Oct. 1, 1747

Sir

I send you herewith the History of the Five Nations. You will perceive that Osborne, to puff up the Book, has inserted the Charters &c. of this Province, all under the Title of *History of the Five Nations*, which I think was not fair, but 'tis a common Trick of Booksellers.

M^r James Read, to whom M^r Osborne has sent a Parcel of Books by Recommendation of M^r Collinson, being engaged in Business of another kind, talks of declining to act in Disposing of them, and perhaps may put them into my Hands. If he should, I will endeavour to do M^r Osborne Justice in disposing of them to the best Advantage, as also of any other Parcel he may send me from your Recommendation.

M^r Armit is return'd well from N England; As he has your Power of Attorney, and some what more Leisure at present than I have, I think to put your Letter to J. Hughes into his Hands, and desire him to manage the Affair of your Servant. I shall write a Line besides to Hughes, that he would assist in obliging the Serv^t to do you Justice, which may be of some Service, as he owns himself oblig'd to me for recovering a Servant for him that had been gone above a 12 month.

I am, Sir

Your most humb^l Serv^t

B. FRANKLIN

Draft of the Speech of Governor George Clinton (in the handwriting of Cadwallader Colden) to the General Assembly of New York, October 13, 1747. This speech is omitted here for the reason that it is printed in "Journal of the General Assembly of New York," Volume II, pages 181-187.

From Peter Collinson

My Dear fr^d

haveing an unexpected opportunity by M^r John Sandin a Sweedish Clergyman y^e Bearer I Send the Inclosed w^{ch} I believe you'l be pleased to See I have had no Answer to y^r Queries

I am in hast much yrs

Novem^r: 1: 1747

P COLLINSON

From the Flora Zeylanica lately publish'd by Doc^r Linnaeus in Sweden

I find Coldenia Fol: 25: N^o—69 to be the
Teucrij facie bisnagarica tetracoccus Rostrata of
Pluknet. alm. 363 t. 64. f. 6

the Hansape of Hermannus

the Descrⁿ Herba procumbens, Ramis Alternis confertis, Pilosis, Spithamaeis, diffusis

Folia alterna, petiolata ovalia, latere anteriore versus caulem angustiora repando serrata, Lobis XI circiter Plicata Subvillosa Ex alis flores aut Fructus Solitarij vel cum ramulo enati, Sessiles,

Coldenia pag 28 N^o 69. 1043

Cal. Perianthum Tetraphyllum: foliolis lanceolatis, erectis, longitudine Corollae

Cor. Monopetala, infundibuliformis: *Limbo* patulo obtuso.

Stam Filamenta quatuor, tuba Inserta *Antherae* subrotundae,

Pist Germina quatuor, ovata. *Styli* totidem capillares, longitudine Staminum *Stigmata* Simplicia, persistentia

Per Nullum fructus ovatus, compressus. Scaber acuminatus, terminatus rostris quatuor.

Sem Quatuor, hinc convexa Scabra inde angulata, acuminata.

[Indorsed]

The Description of the Coldenia
Collinson Nov 1st 1747

From Mrs. Cadwallader Colden

My Dear

COLDENHAM Nov^r 22nd 1747

You again give me new Spirits with the hopes you give me (in yours by Mr Harrison) of seing you about the end of this week. O that I may not again be dissappointed. Our son Alex^r writes to me that he had given you an account of the uneasiness we all had last week by the information some officers had given him of what the new Levies had threatened they wou'd do in their marching through the Countrey

I have not been under such apprehensions of suffering by them at any time as at this knowing they have reason to be exasperated. I knew not what was best to do to go doun with Courte it was imposible unless he had agreed to wait two or three days which he refus'd to do haveing severall passengers on board Then I thought you might posibely be by the way & I might miss seing you which I could not bear. However we reckond it best to send such of our Valueablest things as we cou'd be without and to be in what readyness we cou'd to go our selves with first opportunity if there was necessity for it. I could not posibly write when I sent the 4 Trunks & 2 Chists haveing the notice only after noon and was oblided to be up most part of the night puting up the things least Courte shou'd be gon before the Waggon got doun next day What we have sent we can make shift to do without this Winter but I'm afraid my dear there may be some things in your Chist that you may want. Every thing is in it which you know is always there I have put it in it besides, your 2 count books, that which is call'd the Money box with the bonds &c in it, Most part of our Plate and some other od things. If you think any thing in it may be much wanted You can bring the Chist up with you, Coud I have known of any certain hand that woud reach you before you come away I woud have sent the Keys to you but I know not whom this may go by.

The papers relateing to Mr Burnets Estate are in Your Chist likeways.

Katty has been very uneasy these three days with the sore throat it was much sweld & a great deall of white specks upon the Almonds she is now better & I think the worst is over, all the rest of the family are well. I had sent a letter to go by Courte before I coud have any thoughts of sending the Trunks, with it I sent a Basket with some things for your use in comeing up, Likeways a Jug & the Mail. The Children all offer their duty James M^c Neal's wife is not got up yet but hourly expected

My Dear

Your most affectionat

Alice COLDEN

*Memorandum on back of letter of Alice Colden dated
Nov. 22, 1747, in handwriting of Cadwallader Colden*

Tho' all Pleasures arise from the perception the mind has of the benefite arising from the Actions which give pleasure yet these Pleasures may become vicious from an erroneous Judgement of the mind but they become most frequently so from a habit contracted by repeated Actions Habits as before observ'd arise from the frequent repetitions of the same actions & the experience the mind has of their use so far that it is determined to a repetition of the same Action without any particular reflexion on the Use So from the Benefite which the mind perceives in the daily use of food & of drink the mind may contract a vicious habit of Glutteny or Drunkenness Thus from the reflections the mind has on the benefite it receives from the use of wine in cheering & enlivening the Spirits it is incited to repeated uses of the same. And if the mind will not reflect with sufficient attention or force on the pain & injury by the abuse of these repeated Actions it must contract a vicious habit of Tipling or of Drunkenness

For this reason to prevent Vicious habits it becomes necessary to reflect frequently on the true use of all those Actions which give us pleasure & on the hurt they produce when they are immoderately pursued since without such frequent reflection which is a Voluntary act of the mind we are in danger of Vicious Habits.

Draft of the Speech of Governor George Clinton (in handwriting of Cadwallader Colden) dissolving the General Assembly of N. Y. November 25, 1747. This speech is omitted here for the reason that it is printed in "Journal of the General Assembly of New York," Volume II, pages 202-205.

From Benjamin Franklin

PHILAD^A Nov. 27, 1747.

Sir

The violent Party Spirit that appears in all the Votes &c of your Assembly, seems to me extreamly unseasonable as well as unjust, and to threaten Mischief not only to your selves but to your Neighbours. It begins to be plain, that the French may reap great Advantages from your Divisions: God grant they may be as blind to their own Interest, & as negligent of it, as the English are of theirs. It must be inconvenient to you to remove your Family, but more so to you & them, to live under continual Apprehensions & Alarms. I shall be glad to hear you are all in a Place of Safety.

Tho' *Plain Truth* bore somewhat hard on both Parties here, it has had the Happiness not to give much offence to either. It has wonderfully spirited us up to defend ourselves & Country, to which End great Numbers are entring into our Association, of which I send you a Copy enclos'd. We are likewise setting on foot a

Lottery to raise 3000 £ for erecting a Battery fo Cannon below the City,—We have petition'd the Proprietor to send us some from England, and have order'd our Correspondents to send us over a Parcel, if the Application to the Proprietor fails. But lest by any Accident they should miscarry, I am desired to write to you, & desire your Opinion whether if our Government should apply to Govern^r Clinton, to borrow a few of your spare Cannon, till we could be supply'd & such application might probably meet with Success. Pray excuse the Effects of Haste in this Letter. I am, Sir, with the greatest Respect,
Your most obliged humble Serv^t

B FRANKLIN

[Indorsed]

To

The hon^{ble} CADWALLADER COLDEN Esq
New York

Free

B FRANKLIN

Extract of St Peter Warren's letter to Governor George Clinton December, 1747.

I am extreemly concerned to hear how uneasy you have been made, and I do assure you all y^e letters y^t mentoin the unhappy Situation of New York from y^e Rage of Party agree, that not you but y^e Influence of others have occasioned y^e confusion & almost ruin of y^t once Floroushing Colonie, I have both Tyes of Interest & Friendship to induce to wish it well & I hope what the Ministry have lately done in the appointment of M^r DeLancey Leu^t Gover^r will contribute to y^e settling all y^e uneasiness y^t have so unhappily subsisted for some time past & y^t every thing will be setled between him & your Excell^{cy} to both your Satisfactions, & when you arive here you may depend on my doing every thing on my part for y^t Service & Ease & you will find when here y^t I have done you every good office in my power with the Ministry tho you didnt want any with them.

[Memorandum in Colden's handwriting]

The general view of the late proceedings of the Council & Assembly is to make it appear in England that M^r Colden is a person disagreeable to both the Council & Assembly In answer to this it may be asked is there or can any thing be shown in his conduct that deserves their Displeasure if the real Service of the King & country be made the rule by which our Judgement is directed If no such thing appear the whole must arise from the Power of a Faction that is influenced otherwise than by the Public Service Is it not then necessary to suppress such views as evidently tend to public Prejudice. If the small number of the Council & Assembly be consider'd & the low condition of life & ignorance of the Greatest number of them it may be in the power of one man of a superior fortune & numerous relations if he once get the greatest numbers of such as depend on him or have personal friendships or are otherwise influenced by him into the Council & assembly & into all the offices of Gov^t to influence the whole in such manner as he shall think fit But then the Sense of the People in General may be very different from what is express'd by their representatives It is certain great numbers think differently from them & perhaps when a proper Oppertunity offers the people will show that they generally dislike the late proceedings in the assembly

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